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## Apex court stays State board exams for Classes 5, 8, 9, 11

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday stayed a Karnataka High Court order of March 22 which allowed board examinations to be conducted for Classes 5, 8, 9, and 11 in schools affiliated with the State board.

A Bench, headed by Justice Bela Trivedi, directed the State to keep in abeyance and not communicate or circulate the results of the examinations at any cost either to the students or the parents.

The petitioners had submitted that the Karnataka State Quality Assessment and Accreditation Council, following the High Court order on March 22, had issued a direction on April 4 to schools to publish the examination results on April 8. "The results declared by any school pursuant to the stated order shall be kept in abeyance, not be taken into consideration for any purpose whatsoever and nor it shall be communicated to the parents if not communicated so far," the Bench, also comprising Justice Pankaj Mittal, said. The Bench accused the State of trying to create confusion among parents and children. It said the State's push for board examinations and even the March 22 order of the High Court were not in tune with the Right to Education Act.

"The State seems to be bent on playing with the future of students and has caused a lot of agony and hardship to students, parents and teachers as also to school managements," the court remarked.

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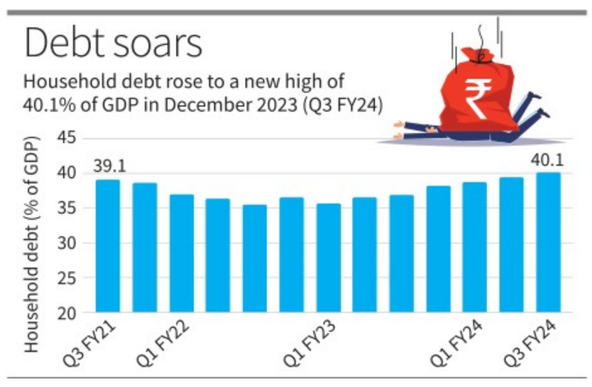
# Households' debt surged to new high by Dec. 2023

According to a research report, debt levels are reckoned to have touched an all-time high of 40% of GDP, while net financial savings had likely dropped to their lowest level at around 5% of GDP

**Vikas Dhoot**
NEW DELHI




In what may be construed as a sign of rising financial distress, India's household debt levels are reckoned to have touched an all-time high of 40% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by December 2023, while net financial savings had likely dropped to their lowest level at around 5% of GDP, as per a research report from leading financial services firm Motilal Oswal.

In September 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) estimated that households' net financial savings had dropped to 5.1% of GDP in 2022-23, a 47-year low, triggering a flurry of criticism that the Finance Ministry had refuted sharply. It had argued that households are adding fewer financial assets than in the past because they were taking loans to buy real assets such as homes and vehicles which is "not a sign of distress but of confidence in their future employment and income prospects".

The first revised estimates of national income for 2022-23 published this February, raised the estimated net financial savings in households to 5.3% of GDP, which is still the lowest in 47 years, and weaker than the average of 7.6% of GDP recorded between 2011-12 and 2019-20.

The revised estimates also scaled up household debt levels to 38% of GDP in 2022-23, second only to the 39.1% of GDP recorded in 2020-21.

**Personal loans**

"Our estimates suggest that household debt has risen to approximately 40% of GDP as of December 2023, reaching a new high. Based on banks' data, it is clear that unsecured personal loans continue to grow at the fastest pace within household debt, followed by secured debt, agricultural loans, and business loans," Motilal Oswal research analysts Nikhil Gupta and Tanisha Ladha said.

The report ascribed the dismal 2022-23 net financial savings numbers to weak income growth, robust consumption and growth in physical savings.

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## Several States are coming to court against Centre: SC

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court said a steady stream of States are compelled to approach it against the Centre while cautioning the Union government against entering into a "contest" with water-starved Karnataka over its request for drought relief.

"Let there be no contest here between the Union and the State... We are seeing various State governments having to appear in court," Justice B.R. Gavai, heading the Bench, addressed Attorney-General R. Venkataramani and Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, both appearing for the Union government.

Recently, the Tamil Nadu government accused the Centre in the Supreme Court of treating the people of the State in a "stepmotherly" fashion by delaying the release of disaster relief funds to the tune of nearly ₹38,000 crore to help tide over the twin calamities of cyclone Michaung and unprecedented floods in the State's southern districts. Likewise, Kerala filed a first-of-its-kind suit directly in the top court, blaming the Centre for arbitrarily interfering in its net borrowing limits, pushing the State to the brink of a financial emergency.

> Let there be no contest here between the Union and the State...
> JUSTICE B.R. GAVAI

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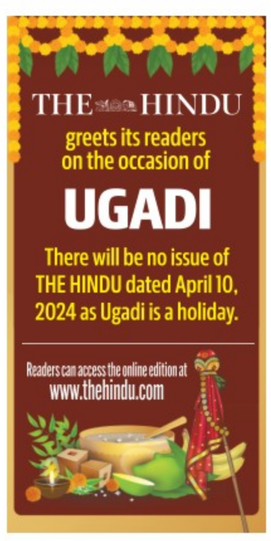
## NEARBY

### No festive cheer at meat markets

BENGALURU
With the advent of online stores and the mushrooming of retail marts, the once bustling meat markets of Bengaluru hardly have any customers these days, even as two prominent festivals where meat is used, Hosa Thodaku and Id-ul-Fitr falling on April 10 and 11. » Page 3

### Dingaleshwara Swami jumps into poll fray

BENGALURU
Accusing Union Minister and BJP candidate from Dharwad Lok Sabha constituency Pralhad Joshi of "crushing the careers of Veerashaiva-Lingayat leaders", Fakir Dingaleshwara Swami of Bhavaikyatha Mahasamsthana Mutt announced his decision to contest as an Independent candidate from Dharwad, on Monday. » Page 6


THE HINDU
greets its readers on the occasion of
UGADI
There will be no issue of THE HINDU dated April 10, 2024 as Ugadi is a holiday.
Readers can access the online edition at www.thehindu.com

## SC stays trial of T.N. Minister Periyasamy

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday stayed the trial of Tamil Nadu Rural Development Minister I. Periyasamy in a corruption case regarding the alleged allotment of a High Income Group plot in the Mogappair Eri scheme of the Tamil Nadu Housing Board.

A Bench headed by Justice Hrishikesh Roy stepped in after the Special Judge trying the case had refused to defer proceedings.

The trial judge reasoned that the Madras High Court had given him a deadline of July 31, 2024 to complete the trial. Any postponement would lead to delay. The Minister, represented by advocate Ram Sankar, had wanted to put the trial on temporary hold to give the top court requisite time to decide his petition challenging a *suo motu* order of a Single Judge Bench of the Madras High Court to reopen the case against him.

"We are of the view that the trial ordered by the High Court should not proceed till the Supreme Court is hearing it," the Supreme Court directed.

The plot allotment was made to C. Ganesan, who was the personal security officer to the then Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi, in 2008-2009.

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***Landscape layout***

**Picture perfect:** Farmers in Smit village of Meghalaya have kept their fields ready as they await the showers for this season's cultivation. A scenic view of the vast tracts of land in the village, which is famous for organic farming, on Monday. RITU RAJ KONWAR

## Congress, NC announce seat-sharing formula for J&K, Ladakh

**Peerzada Ashiq**
SRINAGAR

Leaving out the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) from seat-sharing arrangements, INDIA bloc constituents – the Congress party and the National Conference (NC) – on Monday announced a pre-election seat-sharing arrangement for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

The Congress has decided to field its candidates from the two seats in Jammu province, Udhampur and Jammu, and the sole seat in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

The NC will contest all three Lok Sabha seats in the Kashmir Valley, that is, Anantnag-Rajouri, Srinagar, and Baramulla.

The announcement was jointly made by NC vice-president Omar Abdullah and Congress leader and the party's seat-sharing committee member Salman Khurshid, in New Delhi.

"The NC will support Congress candidates in the Udhampur, Jammu, and Ladakh seats. The INDIA bloc will contest the election to help fulfil the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh, and truly represent them in Parliament," Mr. Abdullah said.

**PDP's exclusion**

On the exclusion of the PDP, which is also a member of the INDIA bloc, Mr. Khurshid sought to separate the larger ideological alliance from the seat-sharing arrangements.

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## As guns fall silent on border, bunkers shape-shift into kitchen, storeroom

**Vijaita Singh**
KATHUA

Biro Devi, 40, ecstatically shows a bunker built next to her one-room house in her village, overlooking the Pakistan border in Jammu's Kathua. Constructed in 2022, she uses the structure meant to protect the family from cross-border firing as a kitchen and a storeroom these days.

For the past three years, her village has not seen any shelling from Pakistan.

"Till three years ago, there was uncertainty. The firing would start particularly during the harvest season. We had to spend nights in school. Our children missed school. The bunker's construction started in 2021 and it was completed in 2022," said Ms. Devi.

**Positive turn:** Biro Devi stands next to the bunker built near her house at Pansar village in Jammu's Kathua. VIJAITA SINGH

In February 2021, after India and Pakistan agreed for re-observance of the 2003 ceasefire agreement, cross-border firing and shelling have reduced drastically along the border.

At the village, dominated by the Scheduled Caste community, the administration has ensured that there is a saturation of social schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

Kiran Devi (29), another resident, said the last time the village was shelled by Pakistan was in 2020. "Earlier, there was incessant firing from across the border. Even our room was damaged in the shelling. The government constructed a bunker for us," said Ms. Devi as she cooked rice over a wood fire in a brick room which had no roof and door.

The Pakistan border has largely remained silent since February 25, 2021, when the Director Generals of Military Operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan agreed to a "strict observance of all agreements, understandings and ceasefire along the Line of Control [LoC] and all other sectors".

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## Scooterist, part of rally, dies in accident

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

A 60-year-old scooterist, who was part of the election campaign rally of Shobha Karandlaje, Union Minister and Bharatiya Janata Party candidate from the Bengaluru North Lok Sabha constituency, was killed in a freak accident after he crashed into the car belonging to her and came under the wheels of a private bus at K.R. Puram here on Monday.

The deceased has been identified as Prakash.

**Loses control**

The scooterist was part of the poll campaign rally of Ms. Karandlaje and lost control of his vehicle and crashed into the car after its door was accidentally opened.

After losing control Prakash fell on the road only to be run over by a private bus that coming from behind.

A profusely injured Prakash was taken to hospital where he was declared brought dead.

Ms. Karandlaje has termed the incident as unfortunate.

Speaking to the media, the Union Minister said: "He was a dedicated party worker and was with us for 24 hours a day. We are with his family. We will pay compensation from our party funds."

Ms. Karandlaje is pitted against M.V. Rajeev Gowda of the Congress in the Lok Sabha elections.

# Jordan and Tendulkar used to make me stop and watch

The double international from New Zealand, whose desire is to win a World Cup, says she couldn't take her eye off the television when the two were in action; she is excited to see cricket's inclusion in the 2028 Olympics and talks about the evolution of the women's game in her country with great fondness

GETTY IMAGES

INTERVIEW

## SUZIE BATES

P.K. Ajith Kumar

No batter, not even Virat Kohli, has scored as many runs in international T20 cricket as Suzie Bates. The New Zealand all-rounder has 4231 runs in T20Is and 5673 runs in ODIs.

At 36, she continues to be one of stalwarts in women's cricket. And she is a double international, having played for New Zealand in basketball at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

She spoke to *The Hindu* over phone from Hamilton. Excerpts:

**Q: How exciting was it to bowl New Zealand to that last ball victory in the third T20I against England recently?**

A: It was one of the most exciting finishes to a game that I have bowled in. It was pleasing to be able to get the win after a tough start to the series. So yeah, it was super exciting. Unfortunately, we haven't been able to beat them again, but it felt great to be able to do a job with the ball.

**You have played before and after women's cricket became professional. What kept cricketers like you going in those days when there was not much money or publicity or television coverage, and how difficult those days were?**

Initially I never expected to be a professional athlete. It was something I loved to do, playing sport. And I played a lot of sports growing up, and I got picked for the New Zealand women's cricket team at 18, and I didn't even think about getting paid for or even the potential to be paid, so it was all about loving playing for my country and getting the opportunities to go to World Cups.

I saw it as a privilege not just to go to those World Cups and not have to pay for them and get paid to travel the world with my friends. So, it's a very different world now, and I just feel that I am very fortunate that I got to experience both the amateur and professional sides of the game. There were probably crossroads there when I got to my late twenties where I probably wasn't earning enough money to look after myself, and that is when the game started to take off worldwide and franchise cricket came into it.

That kind of kept me going, and now internationally, we are full-time professionals, and I think having been in a completely amateur era, I now want to make the most of getting paid for something that I used to do pretty much for free.

So, it was my dream job when I started and not getting paid, and now it is my dream job and I get paid.

**How did players like you make a living during those days when there was no money at all in cricket?**

It was a totally different world. As a female athlete, you didn't expect to make money. It was never an aspiration, and when I was young, from 18 to 24, I studied, and we got grants from the government to study and play sports to help pay for our living allowance.

I was really fortunate that I had a very supportive family, so I lived at home during those years. So, I wasn't paying rent, and I could afford to train and study and not have to worry about getting a job on top of that. I took part-time roles like coaching, whether it was basketball, cricket, to earn a little bit of money on the side, and when we were away, we got reimbursed.

So, I wasn't making money, but I was doing everything I wanted to do. So, you made it work, but there were many players when I played that when they got to 26, 27, they were like, Oh, You are not going to make money.

**What keeps you going?**

I think it is just the love of being part of the White Ferns. And I still feel like I can contribute to any team I play in. And I know once I am retired that you are a long time finished. And I have always felt that when I stop enjoying not only the playing but the training and I feel like I am not able to contribute, then I'll give it away. But I feel like I have always found ways to keep contributing. And I have always loved it and probably always will love it.

And so it is that feeling of knowing that when you call it time, that you are never going to be able to do it again. And that motivates me to keep getting the best out of myself.

There's always World Cups and pinnacle events just around the corner that I think I can contribute to this team. And I'm still motivated to win a World Cup. And those are the little things that keep me going.

**What are your memories from playing in the Olympic Basketball in 2008? The fondest memories from that game?**

I remember, growing up, I used to watch a lot of American sport on TV. And to play the USA women's basketball team, who were the best in the world at the time, was pretty special, to try and compete with them. And just singing the national anthem at an Olympic Games was really cool. And to rub shoulders with some of the best athletes in the world. There were the likes of Roger Federer, Michael Phelps and LeBron James at those Games. To be in the same space as them as a young 19-year-old was really inspiring.

And it made me want to be an athlete even more, whatever sport that was in.

**Cricket is included in the 2028 Olympics at Los Angeles.**

It is so exciting for the growth of the game, not only women's cricket, but men's as well. And yeah, the Olympics have changed drastically over the years in terms of the sports that we play.

We have had 3x3 basketball, and I guess the games that are growing all around the world. So for any young cricketer who has probably never thought about going to the Olympics, now there is an opportunity to attend. So yeah, as an Olympic athlete who has been there for a different sport, I think it is still one of the most exciting events you can be a part of.

And I know the eyes that are on those events. And when we played at the Commonwealth Games, the number of New Zealanders that watched cricket that perhaps hadn't watched before.

So yeah, it is great for the growth of the men's and the women's game globally.

**You would be 40 then. You feel you might still have a second Olympics in you?**

Oh, it would be an amazing feat if 20 years after my first one, I could participate in a different sport. If I am fit enough and I am playing well enough, we won't put it out of the question.

But it is a long, long way away for me at 36 years old to be thinking about that. And my goal is to be able to perform in Bangladesh with the White Ferns in the T20 World Cup first.

**Looking back at your career, what do you consider have been the highlights?**

As a cricketer, winning a World Cup, I think is the pinnacle, but we did not. Early on in my career, we came second three times and, you know, that was a failure to me. But now that I look back on that, the fact that we played in three World Cup finals is an achievement in itself. Playing at Lord's in that 2020 World Cup final, although the game went terribly for us, was a real highlight.

It sounds, I guess, a bit strange, but just to be a part of the White Ferns in a fully professional era from where we came from has been a real highlight for me to be a part of that and just watch the game grow in New Zealand.

It makes me really proud that I have been through both eras and yeah, we haven't won a World Cup. And that is what I have always been driven to do. So those World Cups early on were disappointing.

But if I can do that before I retire, I will be one happy cricketer.

**The toughest bowlers you have faced over the years? A: I was actually talking about it the other day to the girls.**

I found the combination of Katherine Brunt and Anya Shrubsole relentless.

And then I reckon I had my most competitive challenges with Jhulan Goswami. I loved the challenge of facing her in one-day cricket in particular. She was just so ruthless with the ball and you felt like you were in the battle with every ball.

**The batters you have admired?**

Karen Rolton was probably the first female cricketer that I was almost wowed by in terms of how hard she hit the ball, but she didn't play for that much longer when I started. And unfortunately, Meg Lanning scored a ton of runs against New Zealand. And as I was captain, she scored so many hundreds and I could never come up with ways to get her out. She was just so determined and I found her the hardest batter to prepare for in terms of captaincy.

**Favourite male cricketers?**

Two athletes that used to make me stop and watch them were Michael Jordan and Sachin Tendulkar. Whenever those two people were on, I just was fixated on the TV.

I loved Tendulkar's presence at the crease. I loved the amount of runs he scored. And he was the one batter that I remember just always wanting to watch.

**What is the state of women's cricket in New Zealand now? How has it evolved over the years from the time you were a little girl?**

It is unrecognisable. And I can only speak from my experience at Otago. When I started, we were very part-time. We only trained for a couple of months of the year. We had volunteer coaches.

Now I go back to Dunedin, we have a full-time coach in Craig Cumming, who works tirelessly with all the players. We have up to 20 to 25 people turn up to our team training.

We have assistant coaches. Just the number of young players that are now playing want to get contracted and play first and foremost for their regions in the Super Smash and now the White Ferns - it is just so different.

You know, players are recognised everywhere they go in Dunedin, the Sparks players, whereas back in the day, it was very rare anyone knew any female cricketers.

So the depth that we are creating through putting women's cricket on the television and young girls wanting to be cricketers, it is so different.

You can't even measure the difference that there is now to when I first started. And probably that is why I am still here.

*(Sony Sports Network has acquired the exclusive broadcast rights of New Zealand Cricket for seven years).*

# Anganwadi workers seek revision in schedule across State

**Summer effect:** Attendance has declined in anganwadis owing to the intense heat. FILE PHOTO

**Jayanth R.**
BENGALURU

As attendance has declined in anganwadis owing to the intense heat, anganwadi workers have urged the State government to revise the functioning hours from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. in all districts, like the way it is being done in the eight districts of north Karnataka, including Kalaburagi and Raichur, during summer.

"We have to work in anganwadis from 9.30 a.m to 4 p.m. However, this year, the temperature in all the districts has increased. A total of 22 children are enrolled in our anganwadi and only around nine are attending regularly. In addition, anganwadi workers are also suffering. The timings of anganwadis should be revised temporarily," said an anganwadi worker from Ramanagara district.

After a drought-hit year, the day temperature has crossed 43 degrees Celsius in many districts of North Karnataka.

So the government issued a caution notice in many districts about the possibilities of heatwave and heatstroke. In addition, the government temporarily revised the schedule of anganwadis in Kalaburagi, Ballari, Yadgir, Koppal, Raichur, Bidar, Vijayapura, and Bagalkot districts from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. in April and May.

"Parents are hesitating to send their children to anganwadis due to intense heat. Hence, the number of children in anganwadis has declined. Anganwadis are running in many places in North Karnataka in tin sheds and there is no fan facility," said an anganwadi worker from Belagavi district.

"Children are finding it difficult to sit in the anganwadis from morning till evening owing to the scorching heat. So, the government should immediately change the timings of anganwadis or declare a month's holiday," demanded Vishalakshi, an anganwadi worker from Mysuru district.

> Children are finding it difficult to sit in the anganwadis from morning till evening owing to the scorching heat. So, the government should immediately change the timings of anganwadis or declare a month's holiday.
>
> **VISHALAKSHI,** Anganwadi worker from Mysuru district.

S. Varalakshmi, president of the Karnataka State Anganwadi Employees' Association, said: "Anganwadi children and workers across the State are suffering from the high temperature this year. A child fell ill at the anganwadi centre in Dasenahalli village of Madhugiri taluk, Tumakuru district and the parents filed a police complaint against the anganwadi worker and assistant. The anganwadi workers are being punished unnecessarily. Just as the State government revised the schedule of anganwadis in North Karnataka, the timings of anganwadis should be changed in all districts across the State."

# Auto, cab, and bus drivers find their own ways to navigate scorching heat

Bottles of chilled water, installing small fans on the side of vehicles, short breaks in shaded areas, and the kindness of passengers help them combat the intense summer heat

BEATING THE HEAT

**Darshan Devaiah B.P.**
BENGALURU

As the sun beats down on the bustling streets of Bengaluru this year, coupled with a water crisis, the city's auto, cab, and bus drivers find themselves facing a challenge - coping with the scorching summer heat while navigating through traffic-laden roads.

"The summer months are always tough for us," says Shivaraju H.M., an auto driver from Rajajinagar. "However, this year, the heat gets unbearable inside the auto, and there's no escaping it. But we have to keep working to make ends meet. When I'm out driving my auto on the roads, I can feel the intense heat from the pavement. There are times when I simply can't continue my duties because of the oppressive heat," he added.

Similarly, cab drivers, who spend long hours behind the wheel, are finding ways to cope with the heat. "I make sure to keep a bottle of chilled water with me," shares Shashi Kumar, a cab driver from Laggere working with a popular ride-hailing service. "Staying hydrated is key, especially when you're stuck in traffic for hours. I also try to take short breaks in shaded areas whenever possible. Given the high fuel prices, I'm unable to keep the air conditioning on constantly. However, I've recently installed a small fan on my side of the car, providing some relief from the heat," Mr. Shashi Kumar said.

**Some rest:** An auto driver taking a nap in the afternoon as the temperature shoots up in Bengaluru. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

> It's important for people to recognise the physical and mental toll that prolonged exposure to heat can take on us. Simple gestures of gratitude and support can go a long way in boosting our morale.
>
> **RAJASHEKHAR V.,** KSRTC bus driver

For Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) and Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) bus drivers, responsible for ferrying lakhs of commuters across the city and other districts every day, the challenge is even greater. The heat is impacting both their mental and physical well-being, as they endure shifts lasting over eight hours each day.

"Driving a bus is tough both mentally and physically during summer. We have to sit for long hours and stick to a tight schedule in heavy traffic, while keeping passengers safe. Without air conditioning, it feels like sitting in an oven. The heat and the noise from the engine really take a toll on us, making it easy to lose our temper over small issues," Shivanna K., a BMTC bus driver said.

Rajashekhar V., a KSRTC bus driver, emphasised the importance of acknowledging challenges faced by drivers. "It's important for people to recognise the physical and mental toll that prolonged exposure to heat can take on us. Simple gestures of gratitude and support can go a long way in boosting our morale and motivating us to continue our work. Driving the bus for 600 km every day, I witness how some people fail to grasp the immense pressure we endure in this heat. However, it's heartening to see many people offering us water whenever we make stops at bus stands."

Mr. Rajashekhar says that he carries a minimum of five litres of water during his shift. However, this often needs to be refilled as it proves insufficient to meet their hydration needs throughout the duty.

## INBRIEF

### Union puts forward demands to protect street vendors

In the context of the severe heat conditions prevailing in many parts of Karnataka, the All India Central Council of Trade Unions has submitted a memorandum on the necessary steps to be taken to protect the health and rights of street vendors.

In a memorandum submitted to the Urban Development Department and civic administration agencies, it has sought a slew of measures including providing umbrellas, one-time heat allowance of ₹5,000 in April and May, distribution of water by the urban local bodies in markets, keeping parks open through the day to let vendors rest, and creation of other resting spots.

They want the government to take up tree planting on a war footing from June onwards to ensure a long-term solution.

**E-paper edition**

**The Hindu offers more coverage of Bengaluru in the e-paper edition. (epaper.thehindu.com)**

In the issue dated April 9, we look at the proposed new property tax system for Bengaluru. The new system of levying tax, based on the guidance value of the properties and has done away with zonal classification as the basis, is expected to increase revenue collection.

**Text & Context and Science**

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (April 9, Tuesday), the following articles are available:

- Different approaches to AI regulation **bit.ly/aireglationindia**
- A freak DNA change 25 million years ago is why humans lack tails **bit.ly/tailsdna**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public are informed that presently our Client **Mr.Ramareddy RN S/o.Narayanappa** is the owner of a residential property bearing Khatha No.3027, Property No.167/2 situated at Bidarahalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, measuring 1200 Sq.ft, consisting of 15 Square RCC Roofed House & he represents that the Original Sale Deed dated 22/04/2002, bearing Doc.No.1101/2002-03, Voll-2454, Pages 166-170 of Book I, relating to the said Property has been lost by him and he represents that the same is not mortgaged as collateral security with anyone else. Further, an Online Lost Article Report has been filed on 04/04/2024 to this effect, which has been duly acknowledged. Persons finding the said Original deed may kindly return the same to the undersigned and if any one has any objections in this regard, they may lodge their objections/claims with documentary evidence within **15 days** from the date of publication to the undersigned.

**Punith.N,** Advocate,
for **Advaya Law Associates,**
3rd Floor, Sri.CN Towers, Above Sri Sai Gold Palace, Old Madras Road, K.R.Puram, Bangalore 560 036. Ph: 9742002646

**NOTICE**

High Commission of India, London has received a notice of intended marriage from Mr. Rahul Mathur, S/o Arvind Swarup Mathur, holder of Indian Passport No. Z5892813 and Miss Sanika Jayant Patil, D/o Jayant Shankerrao Patil, holder of Indian Passport No. N9843708 under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969 of India. Objection, if any (along with valid reasons), to the intended marriage may be conveyed to the High Commission of India, London within 30 Days of publication of this notice at the following address.

**Second Secretary**
**High Commission of India**
**India House, Aldywch,**
**WC2B 4NA**

**(Sd/-)**
**(Panchali Das)**
**SS (Consular)**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

That my client Sri NARASIMHA **RAGHAVENDRA PRASANNA** Villa No.159, RBD Still Waters, Haralur Village, Bangalore-560103, had lost the Original Sale Deed dated: 01-03-1993, which was executed by Sri B.R.Satyararayana in favour of my father Sri N.M. Narasimha Rao, vide document No.6691/92-93, registered in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore South Taluk in respect of the Schedule Property. The Present owner Sri Narasimha Raghavendra Prasanna had lodged a complaint before the Bengaluru City Police station authorities, vide Lost Report No.1005562/2024, dated: 06/04/2024.

That my client has requested the General Public that if the said documents are traced by them, kindly hand over the same to him or to his said Advocate within 07 days of time from this date of publication and the compliant will be suitably rewarded.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY**

House on Site No.12 and 13A, House List Gramatana Khatha No.607/52/1C, situated at Bilekahalli, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring East to West: 40 Feet and North to South 45 Feet and bounded on the:

**East :** Private Property
**West :** Road
**North :** Property No.13
**South:** Property No.13 belongs to K. Surendar

**A Manjunath,** Advocate
No. 924, 1st Floor, 28th Main, 9th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore - 560069
M: +919845395528

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

That my client Mrs. USHA RANI, w/o. Sri Naveen Kumar M.S. residing at Harappanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, had lost the Original Sale Deed dated: 16-06-2016, which was executed by Ms/. NIRMAN SHELTERS (B) PVT. LTD., in her favour, vide document No.CMP-1-02252-2016-17 of Book-1, registered in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Chamarajpet, BAngalore in respect of the Schedule Property. And she had lodged a complaint before the Bengaluru City Police station authorities, vide Lost Report No.1002495/2024, dated: 04/04/2024.

That my client has requested the General Public that if the said documents are traced by them, kindly hand over the same to him or to his said Advocate within 07 days of time from this date of publication and the compliant will be suitably rewarded.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY**

Site No.1242 situated in NIRMAN LAYOUT in Sy.No.153/2A, Koppa Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, measuring East to West: (37.6+35.6)/2 feet and North to South 40 Feet, totally measuring 1460 square feet and bounded on the:

**East :** Private Property
**West** : Site No.1484
**North**: Road **South:** Nirman's Property

**A Manjunath,** Advocate
No. 924, 1st Floor, 28th Main, 9th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore - 560069
M: +919845395528

**SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY** G20

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders through IREPS only for supply of following items: **Tender Closing Time : 10:30 Hrs.**

**Tender Notice No. 12/2024 Dated: 03-04-2024**

| Tender No | Description in Brief | Tender Due on |
|---|---|---|
| L8245052A | Supply, Supervision of Erection, Testing and Commisioning of star 2 (EEL-3/5 Star) rating Outdoor type Distribution Trasformer of 1000 KVA, 11 KV/415V, 3-Phase, 50Hz AC **Qty-02 Nos.** | 29-04-2024 |

**Tender Notice No. 13/2024 Dated: 04-04-2024**

| Sl. | Tender No | Description in Brief | Tender Due on |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | L8245255 | Supply, Installation and Commissioning of 50T EOT Crane with anti-collission device and accessories. **Qty-04 Sets.** | 29-04-2024 |
| 2 | L8236748A | Crane mounted truck AMC for 5 years for Crane mounted trucks after 2 years warranty period. **Qty-01 No.** | 30-04-2024 |

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

PUB/14/AAD/PRB/SWR/2024-25 **Senior Divisional Materials Manager, Bengaluru**

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

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**(CIN: U40108JH2013SGC001702)**
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**fax # 0651-2400483 e-mail : cesp.jseb@rediffmail.com/gmsp.jbvnl@rediffmail.com**

**2nd Time Extension Notice**

Last date of uploading of bid documents, last date of physical submission of tender fee and bid opening date of following tender notice no. is hereby extended as below :-

| Sl. No. | NiTs No. | Extended online bid uploading/ submission end date | Last date of online submission of tender fee and EMD | Technical bid opening date and time |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 517/PR/JBVNL/2023-24 ISI Marked 11 kV XLPE UG Cable 300sqmm | 15.04.2024 upto 18:00 Hrs | 15.04.2024 upto 18:00 Hrs. | 16.04.2024 upto 18:00 Hrs. |
| 2 | 518/PR/JBVNL/2023-24 ISI Marked 33 kV XLPE UG Cable 400sqmm | 15.04.2024 upto 18:00 Hrs | 15.04.2024 upto 18:00 Hrs. | 16.04.2024 upto 18:00 Hrs. |

Further details against the above NIT can be seen on website http:jharkhandtenders.gov.in and may be contacted on Mobile No. 09431135523 / 9430348596/ NIC helpline No. 0651-2400178. Only online payment mode of submission of Tender Fee & EMD will be accepted.

स्वहित एवं राष्ट्र हित में ऊर्जा बचावें। कृपया अपनी शिकयतों को टॉल फ्री नं० 1800 345 6570 पर दर्ज करायें।

Sd/-
General Manager (S&P)
JBVNL

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PR 323642 Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd(24-25)D

## EDUCATION HUB

A Business Initiative

### Manipal Law School organised its 1st edition of Dr. TMA PAI International Technology Arbitration Moot

Manipal Law School, a constituent institute of Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), Bengaluru organised its 1st edition of Dr. TMA PAI INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGY ARBITRATION MOOT, 2024. The theme of the competition was based on the intersection of technology and international arbitration law. The final round was arbitrated by a distinguished panel of legal luminaries: Datuk Sundra Rajoo, President, AIADR, Kuala Lumpur, Hon'ble Justice Mr. Hemant Gupta, Former Supreme Court Judge and Chairman IIAC, New Delhi, Justice P Krishna Bhat, Former Judge, High Court of Karnataka and Mr. Ganesh Chandru, Partner, Dua Associates, Chennai. Their expertise and insights added immense value to the event, gave participants real-world perspectives on legal issues and procedures. Manipal Law School also inaugurated its MOOT COURT HALL in the honour of Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah, Former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India. Additionally, Manipal Law School also launched its latest LL.M programme on International Investment and Commercial Arbitration during the valedictory ceremony. After two exciting days and a series of activities- the team from Institute of Law, Nirma University emerged as the Winner and received a cash prize of Rs. 1,50,000. Runners Up were SVKM NMIMS Kirit P. Mehta School of Law who received the cash prize of Rs. 50,000. MNLU Nagpur won the Best Speaker and the Best Researcher award while University of Chittagong, Bangladesh was awarded the Best Memorial.

### Globalization, Entrepreneurship and Trade, at Nitte Meenakshi Institute of Technology, Bengaluru

Chandru Iyer, Deputy High Commissioner of the UK for Karnataka and Kerala & Deputy Trade Commissioner for South Asia, while addressing the students on Globalization, Entrepreneurship and Trade, at Nitte Meenakshi Institute of Technology, Bengaluru opined 'International Business is must for a Country to gain competitive advantage at global level. To achieve this, skill sets are very much required in addition to hard work, as there are no boundaries for the trade. For this, our students should feel free to venture in establishing their own start-up companies after proper idea generation and opportunity evaluation'. He further added that UK is always considered as the gateway to Europe and always feel that empathy, proper knowledge and constant observation skills are essential to become successful entrepreneurs'. Later he visited few Laboratories / Research Centres at NMIT and appreciated the innovative skills of young technocrats. Dr. Sandeep Shastri, Director (Academics), Nitte Education Trust, welcomed the gathering and Dr. Sudheer Reddy, Dean (International Relations) proposed vote of thanks. Dr. H.C. Nagaraj, Principal, NMIT; Rohit Punja, Administrator, Nitte Education Trust; Dr. V. Sridhar, Dean (Academics), NMIT and students & faculty members were present on the occasion.

### Third edition of the Justice N. Santosh Hegde National Moot Court Competition (NMCC), 2024 at Alliance School of Law(ASL)

The Alliance Moot Court Society (AMCS) at the ASL, Alliance University, hosted the third edition of the Justice N. Santosh Hegde NMCC, 2024. Having attracted registration from 41 participating teams and conducted in a hybrid mode, these teams engaged in online rounds that encompassed preliminary sessions and a researcher's test. Distinguished professionals, including Arunkumar Venugopalan, Director of Project and Energy Practice at Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas; Anubhab Sarkar, Partner at Triumvir Law; and Dr. Mukul Saxena, Professor and Director of Centre for PG and Legal Studies and Centre for Leadership and Public Policy at Alliance School of Law, presided over the finals. The team from Christ University, Bengaluru, consisting of Aadit Shah, Amiya M. Arickatt, and Anant Baid, emerged as the winners, while the team from V. M. Salgaocar College of Law, comprising Anushka Patil, Jinu Ponnachan, and Kalla Naga Chaitrali, secured the runners-up position. The event honored individuals with accolades Aadit Shah from Christ University claimed the Best Speaker award, while Raaghav Sapra from the University Institute of Legal Studies at Punjab University in Chandigarh secured the Best Researcher award. Furthermore, the team from Lloyd Law College, comprising Aanchal Rajput, Vivek Kumar, and Aditya Garg, secured the Best Memorial Award.

### International Conference on Communication Design: Image, Reality and Representation organized by Department of Media Studies, Kristu Jayanti College, Autonomous, Bengaluru

Chief Guest was Shri VK Prakash, Film Director and Actor, National Film Awardee and the Guest of Honour was Dr BK Ravi, VC, Koppal University for the International Conference organized by Department of Media Studies, KJC, Autonomous, Bengaluru. Department of Media studies strives for excellence in media education. It emphasizes training and research through a curriculum that synergizes theoretical and practical components that would equip students to adapt to the changes in the media industry. The conference brought together academicians, professionals, research scholars, students, social scientists, and industry leaders to explore practical perspectives on communication and representation. Considering the transcendence of media which is indispensable in reshaping the contemporary communication approaches, the Department of Media Studies, KJC Autonomous which organised the third international conference on Communication Design: Image, Reality and Representation.

# A freak DNA change 25 million years ago is why humans lack tails

Around 25 million years ago, the chance insertion of a transposable element occurred in a gene in the zygote of an ancient creature. The probability of the insertion occurring in that exact region was around one in a million. Yet it did, causing the creature to not develop a tail, a study has found

Arun Panchapakesan

One of the most striking anatomical features of apes, which sets them apart from monkeys, is the absence of a tail. All mammals have a tail at some point during their development, but apes, including humans, chimpanzees, bonobos, gorillas, orangutans, and gibbons, lose them *in utero*, leaving behind three to five vestigial vertebrae called the coccyx, or tailbone.

Apes started to lose their tails in this way around 25 million years ago, when the ape and monkey lineages split from a common ancestor. And until recently, nobody knew why apes started to do this.

**Tale of tails:** Tail loss has been implicated in bipedalism: our ability to walk on two legs. But we don't know what evolutionary benefit was conferred on the ancestral tailless ape. GETTY IMAGES

### The compact genome

Every cell of an organism contains a full copy of that organism's DNA, called the genome. The genome contains the information that the cell uses to make proteins, the workhorses of the cell. Each protein is coded by a specific section of the genome, called the gene.

Not all cells make all the proteins encoded in the genome. For instance, pancreatic cells make insulin, but skin cells don't. Skin cells make other proteins, such as keratin, that the pancreas cells don't. A cell achieves this selective protein production by first making a temporary copy of the gene, called the mRNA, that then drives protein production. So pancreas cells will first copy information in the insulin gene into insulin mRNA, and the insulin mRNA will be used to make insulin protein. Skin cells follow the same process to make keratin.

As scientists began to determine the genome sequence of organisms in the mid-1990s, they realised simple organisms like bacteria keep their genomes very compact while more complex life forms don't. In the bacterial genome, the genes are arranged in tandem: where one gene ends, another begins. As a result, genes make up 85-90% of the bacterial genome.

### 'Junk' DNA

But in complex organisms, genes are spaced far apart. In humans, for example, only 1.5% of the genome codes for proteins. At the time, scientists didn't know what the rest did and called it 'junk' DNA.

Today we know this 'junk' DNA is responsible for various functions, including controlling when to make a protein and when not to. A significant fraction of the 'junk' also contains transposable elements. These are pieces of DNA that can shift their positions within the genome.

One such element, called Alu, is unique to primates (both apes and monkeys). It is tiny, being made up of around 300 base pairs (the human genome is approximately 3 billion base pairs). But due to its ability to copy itself and 'jump' within the genome, it is present in 1.4 million different locations in the human genome. Normally, in nearly all cell types, these elements copy themselves, switch to different locations, and insert themselves into the genome again with minimal consequence to health or evolution. This is because the insertion event is unique to a given cell.

For example, if it happens in an essential gene, only that cell will die; others around it will function normally. The sole exception to this rule is if the insertion happens in the zygote: the fertilized cell after fusion of the sperm and egg that develops into the offspring. Then the change to the DNA will be permanent: it will be reflected in every cell of the offspring.

### The Alu accident

Twenty-five million years ago, after the ape and monkey lineages separated, a chance insertion of an Alu element occurred in an important gene in the zygote of an ancient creature. The probability of the insertion occurring in that exact region was around one in a million. Yet it still occurred, and it caused that ancient creature to not develop a tail.

And because the insertion had happened in the zygote, it was imprinted in the DNA of every cell of that creature, and its subsequent offspring – all of them. That creature was the ancestor of all modern apes.

New York University (NYU) scientists reported the discovery of this fateful insertion in a paper in *Nature* in February.

Identifying the insertion was not easy. The NYU group first searched for DNA changes in 31 genes implicated in tail formation, and compared them across apes and monkeys. As a result, they identified 85,064 mutations (single changes to the DNA sequence), 5,533 deletions, and 13,820 insertions that could be the cause. While many of them were possibly involved in tail-loss, none of them stood out because the scientists were looking for changes in the part of the DNA that made the protein.

> As scientists began to determine the genome sequence of organisms, they realised simple organisms like bacteria keep their genomes compact while more complex life forms don't

It was eventually found hiding in the 'junk' DNA.

### A tailoring defect

A peculiar feature of the genome of complex animals is that a gene never exists as one continuous piece in the genome. The gene is divided into segments separated by 'junk'; it's stitched together only when the cell makes the mRNA. This strategy has multiple advantages. For example, the pieces can be rearranged differently at the time of stitching to make different proteins from the same DNA code.

The NYU group found the Alu insertion between two pieces of a gene called TBXT – a gene already known as one of many involved in tail formation in monkeys. As a result of this insertion, apes can't stitch the pieces together correctly and ultimately produce a TBXT protein with one part missing. The team realised this insertion was present in all apes and absent in all other monkeys – a strong sign that it's the cause of tail loss in apes.

The researchers proceeded to compare the size of the TBXT mRNA produced in human and mouse stem cells. They found that while the mouse mRNA was intact, a large fraction of the human mRNA was defective – which they had predicted.

### An unfinished tail

They needed to conduct one more experiment to be absolutely sure the Alu insertion was the culprit. This one had to demonstrate that a defective TBXT protein led to tail loss.

The NYU team, led by Prof. Itai Yanai, Prof. Jef Boeke, and PhD student Bo Xia, engineered the embryos of mice to produce a defective version of TBXT – the version found in apes. As if by magic, the resulting mice were born without tails.

The team also determined that the defective TBXT protein caused other problems, including neural tube defects. They predict that there must have been compensatory changes to the genome to overcome these defects. Some of them could be the differences they themselves identified in the proteins involved in tail formation.

Despite the excellent work of the NYU team, we may never fully understand the tale of our tail. Tail loss has been implicated in bipedalism: our ability to walk on two legs. But it is difficult to speculate on exactly what evolutionary benefit was conferred on the ancestral tailless ape that led to its selection by nature. Whatever that selection pressure may have been, what is incredible is how evolution seized upon that one-in-a-million event and used it to create an ape that would go on to rule the world.

*(Arun Panchapakesan is an assistant professor at the Y.R. Gaithonde Centre for AIDS Research and Education, Chennai.)*

## THE SCIENCE QUIZ

# The highs and lows of the forces around us

Vasudevan Mukunth

**QUESTION 1**

Possibly the weakest (non-zero) estimate of a force is the gravitational force between one proton and one electron in a _____ ____. Fill in the blanks.

**QUESTION 2**

This weapon, invented in the 1970s and today used by police forces around the world, when detonated produces bright light and 1.6–8 kilonewtons per square meter of sound pressure, sometimes enough to cause permanent hearing loss. Name it.

**QUESTION 3**

Scientists have estimated that the sunlight incident on the earth exerts a collective force of 570 million newtons. The resulting pressure on the planet is called the radiation pressure. Some spacecraft are fitted with _____ _____ that use radiation pressure from the sun to move in orbit or space. Fill in the blanks.

**QUESTION 4**

In 2019, the SI units were redefined to be determined using only the fundamental constants. Before this, however, the SI unit of _____ was defined as the amount flowing between two parallel conductors held a metre apart and such that they exerted a force on each other of 0.0000002 newtons per metre. Fill in the blank.

**QUESTION 5**

Eight-thousand newton -- this is roughly the amount of force weight lifters achieve during a _____ and ____ lift. Fill in the blanks.

**Answers to April 4 quiz**:

1. Lowest temperature to which a surface can be evaporatively cooled – **Ans: Wet-bulb temperature**
2. Thermometer reading when exposed to sunlight – **Ans: Dry-bulb temperature**
3. Air's capacity for moisture adjusted for temperature – **Ans: Relative humidity**
4. Temperature at which air is 100% saturated with moisture – **Ans: Dew point**
5. Index that denotes harm caused by sunlight – **Ans: Ultraviolet index**

Visual: **La Niña**

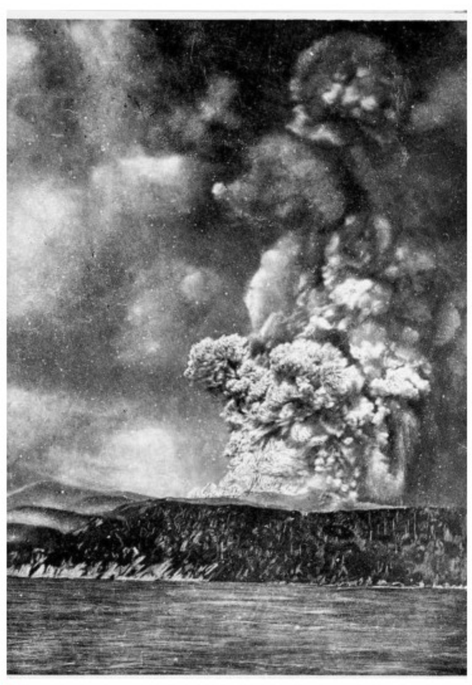
First contact: Nishant Kumar | K.N. Viswanathan

**Answers to April 5 quiz:**

1. Protein fibres in skin that break down over time, resulting in wrinkles – **Ans: Collagen**
2. Term for age-related condition characterised by decrease in brain volume, cognitive function – **Ans: Brain atrophy**
3. Hormone produced less with age, leading to fatigue and weight gain – **Ans: Testosterone**
4. Vitamin associated with healthy skin, vision, immune function – **Ans: Vitamin E**
5. Mineral associated with brain health, contributes to oxidative stress when in excess – **Ans: Calcium**

Visual: **Telomeres**

First contact: K.N. Viswanathan



Visual: At a distance of around 165 km, the eruption of this volcano in the late 19th century produced almost 8,000 newton per square meter of sound pressure. Name it. PUBLIC DOMAIN

People at Niagara Falls State Park, New York, ahead of a total solar eclipse across North America, on Monday. AFP

# *Huge crowds gather for a total eclipse of the sun over N America*

Associated Press

Millions of spectators along a narrow corridor stretching from Mexico through the US to Canada eagerly awaited Monday's celestial sensation – a total eclipse of the sun – even as forecasters called for clouds.

It promised to be North America's biggest eclipse crowd ever, thanks to the densely populated path and the lure of more than four minutes of midday darkness in Texas and other choice spots. Almost everyone in North America was guaranteed at least a partial eclipse, weather permitting.

"Cloud cover is one of the trickier things to forecast," National Weather Service meteorologist Alexa Maines explained at Cleveland's Great Lakes Science Center on Sunday. "At the very least, it won't snow."

The cliff-hanging uncertainty added to the drama. Rain or shine, "it's just about sharing the experience with other people," said Chris Lomas from Gotham,

**The moon will slip in front of the sun, blocking it. The resulting twilight would be long enough for birds and other animals to fall silent, and for planets and maybe even a comet to pop out**

England, who was staying at a sold-out trailer resort outside Dallas.

For Monday's full eclipse, the moon will slip right in front of the sun, entirely blocking it. The resulting twilight, with only the sun's outer atmosphere or corona visible, would be long enough for birds and other animals to fall silent, and for planets, stars, and maybe even a comet to pop out.

The out-of-sync darkness lasts up to 4 minutes, 28 seconds. That's almost twice as long as it was during the U.S. coast-to-coast eclipse seven years ago because the moon is closer to the earth. It will be another 21 years before the U.S. sees another total solar eclipse on this scale.

Extending five hours from the first bite out of the sun to the last, Monday's eclipse begins in the Pacific and makes landfall at Mazatlan, Mexico, before moving into Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and 12 other U.S. states in the Midwest, Middle Atlantic, and New England, and then Canada.

It will take just 1 hour, 40 minutes for the moon's shadow to race more than 6,500 km across the continent.

Eye protection is needed with proper eclipse glasses and filters to look at the Sun, except when it ducks completely out of sight during an eclipse.

The path of totality – approximately 185 km wide – encompasses several major cities this time, including Dallas, Indianapolis, Cleveland, Buffalo, New York, and Montreal. An estimated 44 million people live within the track, with a couple hundred million more within 300 km.

Experts from NASA and scores of universities are posted along the route, poised to launch research rockets and weather balloons, and conduct experiments. The International Space Station's seven astronauts will also be on the lookout, 435 km up.

**For feedback and suggestions**
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

## Bustling with activity

Markets in Bengaluru were flooded with shoppers ahead of Ugadi.
K. MURALI KUMAR

# No festive cheer at city meat markets despite Hosa Thodaku, Id-ul-Fitr

Meat markets see fewer people owing to issues like renovation, parking and advent of corporates and chains; however, the prices of fish and other seafood items have gone up considerably

**Tenzin Yangkey and Nikita Maria Jino**
BENGALURU

With the advent of online stores and the mushrooming of retail marts, the once bustling meat markets of Bengaluru hardly have any customers these days, even as two prominent festivals where meat is used, Hosa Thodaku and Id-ul-Fitr, fall on April 10 and 11.

**Parking norms**

In Johnson Market, the low number of customers has been attributed to parking restrictions. Mohammed Shoaib, owner of K.H. Chicken Centre in Johnson Market, said: "There was a similar sale pattern last year. Because of less parking, fewer customers are coming now."

The prices of the different varieties of meat too have only seen a slight increase as compared to the previous years, sellers reported.

Chicken, which was selling at ₹240 per kg before the start of Ramzan, was selling at anywhere between ₹260 and ₹300 per kg over the weekend in Johnson Market.

Mutton was priced between ₹750 and ₹800 per kg and is expected to go up by ₹20 per kg by Wednesday. At Russel Market, the selling price of lamb was ₹780 per kg and that of eggs was ₹250 for a tray of 30.

However, the prices of fish and other seafood items have gone up considerably in Johnson Market and K.R. Market, despite a lower demand.

Seer fish seems to be in demand as its price has jumped from ₹1,150 to ₹1,600 per kg. Salmon was selling at ₹850 per kg, while prawns were being sold at anywhere between ₹450 and ₹850 per kg, depending on the size.

"There is a lot of supply this year. But business is very dull. We are ordering very little fish and seafood. But if there is no demand, we have to throw it away," said Mohammed Imtiaz, a fish trader in K.R. Market.

There have been fewer customers in all meat markets ever since the COVID-19 lockdowns, meat sellers said.

Shoaib Qureshi, president of the Karnataka Jamiatul Quresh, a meat merchants' association, said: "The big fish will eat the smaller ones. Corporates and big chains have destroyed the city markets. Owing to issues like parking and renovation, customers cannot even enter the meat markets."

# T.N. man jumps off 19th floor of hotel

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

A 28-year-old businessman from Tamil Nadu jumped off the 19th floor of a star hotel at High Grounds on Monday. He had checked in at the hotel two days ago.

The deceased was identified as Sharan. He was found moving around suspiciously on the 19th floor. Passers-by alerted the security guard. But, by the time the guard reached the 19th floor, Sharan had jumped and fallen at the entrance of the hotel.

He was rushed to a nearby hospital where he was declared as brought dead.

Sharan had been to the hotel many times earlier, and checked in on April 6 citing a business visit.

The High Grounds police are trying to connect with his relatives to ascertain the reason for him taking this extreme step .

(*Those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahaya Vani ph: 104 for help*).

# Man arrested for peddling drugs

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The anti-narcotics wing of the Central Crime Branch on Monday arrested a food delivery executive and recovered marijuana worth ₹10 lakh from him. The accused, Bhabhajyothi Doley from Assam, working as a delivery executive in the city for the last 12 years, was also allegedly peddling drugs to his customers.

An initial probe revealed that the accused would source the drugs from his native place and store it at his rented accommodation and sell it to his customers while on work to avoid attention.

The accused has been booked under the NDPS Act and taken into custody to ascertain his network.

In another incident, the CCB anti-narcotics team arrested a Nigerian national and recovered MDMA crystals worth ₹4 crore from him. The accused, identified as Henry Chukwuemeka, came to the city on a business visa four years ago and overstayed after the expiry of his travel documents.

The accused stayed in a rented accommodation at Banasawadi and sourced the drugs through courier.

Based on a tip-off, a police team kept a watch on the accused and trapped him red-handed. He was taken into custody.

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N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560 002.
GENERAL ELECTION TO LOK SABHA - 2024
Subject: Submission of explanation to Notice issued asking for reasons for non-attendance to training by officers/personnel assigned for election duties on 07.04.2024-reg.
and
Warning that strict action will be taken against additional personnel who do not attend the training.
Polling Personnel Deployment:

| | |
|---|---|
| Date of 1st level Election Training (for absentees and additional personnel) | 10th April 2024 at 9.30 AM |
| Training Venue for PROs | Government Pre University College,18th Cross, Malleswaram, Bengaluru-560012. |
| Training Venue for APROs | Smt. V.H.D. Central Institute of Home Science, Sheshadri Road, Bengaluru-560 001. |
| Date of 2nd level Election Training | Will be informed later |
| Date of Mustering | 25th April 2024 at 9.30 AM |
| Date of Poll | 26th April 2024 |

FINAL CAUTION
Notice has been issued as per RP Act 1951 asking for reasons to those who have not attended the training held on 07.04.2024. Explanation to be given in person at your assigned training centres.
Personnel assigned for election duties should compulsorily attend on the date and time at the centres for training, mustering and poll duty.
Further, failure by any personnel to attend, immediate FIR will be booked u/s 134 of RP Act 1951 against the defaulting official and appropriate legal action will be taken and disciplinary action will be initiated under relevant service rules and penal code.
A Nodal Officer has been appointed from each office for the purpose of polling personnel deployment. The Nodal Officer shall serve the election duty orders on their staff and issue Notice asking for reasons for non-attendance and take responsibility to ensure their attendance at the training and poll duty. Any negligence in performing the above said duties will attract cognizable penal action u/s 134 of RP Act against the Nodal Officer.
Polling personnel can download Presiding Officer Handbook from
https://eci.gov.in
District Election Officer, Bengaluru District & Chief Commissioner, BBMP, Bengaluru

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# Text&Context

THE HINDU

## NEWS IN NUMBERS

### The rise in coffee exports in the January to March period

**13.35** in percentage. Coffee shipments from India rose to 1.25 lakh tonnes during the January-March period of this year due to higher demand for Robusta coffee, as per official data. PTI

### The increase in automobile retail sales in India in FY24

**10** in percentage. Automobile retail sales saw double-digit growth in 2023-24 driven by record offtake of vehicles, three-wheelers and tractors, according to the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations. PTI

### Loan sanctioned by Rural Electrification Corporation in FY24

**3.59** in lakh crore. The REC posted a year-on-year rise of 33.66% from sanctioning loan worth ₹2.68 lakh crore in 2022-23. Of the total loan, ₹1.36 lakh crore were 'renewable energy sanctions'. PTI

### Vistara airline to reduce capacity in domestic routes

**10** in percentage. Facing delays due to non- availability of crew, Vistara said it was cutting 25-30 flights daily with most of the cancellations in the domestic network as it strives to stabilise operations. PTI

### Hike in Indian CEOs salary compared to pre-COVID: Deloitte

**40** in percentage. The average CEO compensation in India stood at ₹13.8 crore, according to the Deloitte India Executive Performance and Rewards Survey 2024. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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# Different approaches to AI regulation

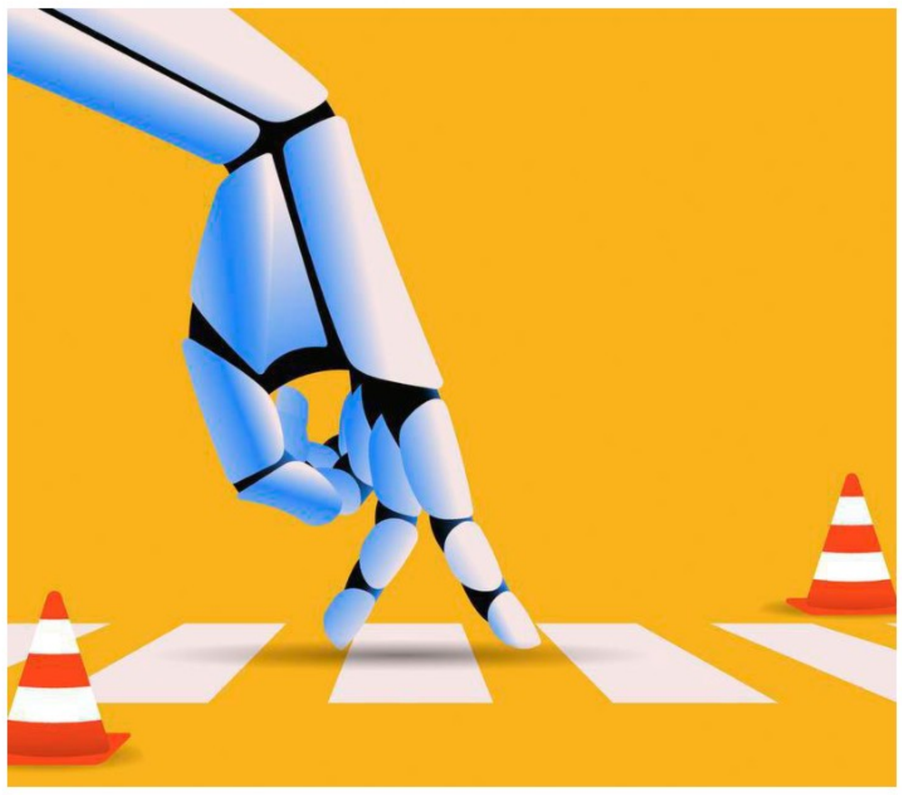
Amid the global movement towards regulating AI systems, India's response would be crucial, with the nation currently catering to one of the largest consumer bases and labour forces for technology companies. India's path must align with its SDGs while also ensuring that economic growth is maintained

LETTER & SPIRIT

G. S. Bajpai

The Artificial Intelligence (AI) space has seen certain developments crucial to its regulation in recent years – the United Nations's Resolution on Artificial Intelligence, the AI Act by the European Parliament, laws introduced on AI in the U.K. and China and the launch of the AI mission in India. These efforts to formalise AI regulations at the global level will be critical to various sectors of governance in all other countries.

With the passing of the United Nations Resolution on Artificial Intelligence, the need and associated discourse on the regulation of AI has entered a new phase. A global acknowledgement of the risks associated with AI systems and the urgent need to promote responsible use was at the centre of the adopted resolution. It was recognised that unethical and improper use of AI systems would impede the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), weakening the ongoing efforts across all three dimensions – social, environmental, and economic. Another controversial aspect mentioned in the UN resolution has been the plausible adverse impact of AI on the workforce. It would be imperative, especially for developing and least developed countries, to devise a response as the labour market in such countries is increasingly vulnerable to the use of such systems. In addition to its workforce, the impact on small and medium entrepreneurs also needs to be ascertained. Thus, being the first of its kind, the Resolution has shed light on the future implications of AI systems and the urgent need to adopt collaborative action.



GETTY IMAGES

**The EU's approach**

The EU recently passed the AI Act, the foremost law establishing rules and regulations governing AI systems. With its risk-based approach, the Act categorises systems into four categories, namely unacceptable, high, limited, and minimal risks, prescribing guidelines for each. The Act prescribes an absolute ban on applications that risk citizens' rights, including manipulation of human behaviour, emotion recognition, mass surveillance etc. While the Act allows exemptions to banned applications when it is pertinent to law enforcement, it limits the deployment by asking for prior judicial/administrative authorisation in such cases.

The landmark legislation highlights two important considerations – acknowledging the compliance burden placed on business enterprises, and start-ups, and regulating the much-deliberated Generative AI systems such as ChatGPT. These two factors warrant the immediate attention of policymakers, given their disruptive potential and the challenges of keeping pace with such evolving systems.

**China's stand on AI**

Identifying risks is evident in the approach adopted by China, which focuses on prompting AI tools and innovation with safeguards against any future harm to the nation's social and economic goals.

The country released, in phases, a regulatory framework addressing the following three issues – content moderation, which includes identification of content generated through any AI system; personal data protection, with a specific focus on the need to procure users' consent before accessing and processing their data; and algorithmic governance, with a focus on security and ethics while developing and running algorithms over any gathered dataset.

**The U.K.'s framework**

The U.K., on the other hand, has adopted a principled and context-based approach in its ongoing efforts to regulate AI systems. The approach requires mandatory consultations with regulatory bodies, expanding its technical know-how and expertise in better regulating complex technologies while bridging regulatory gaps, if any. The U.K. has thus, resorted to a decentralised and more soft law approach rather than opting to regulate AI systems through stringent legal rules. This is in striking contrast to the EU approach.

**India's position**

Amid the global movement towards regulating AI systems, India's response would be crucial, with the nation currently catering to one of the largest consumer bases and labour forces for technology companies. India will be home to over 10,000 deep tech start-ups by 2030. In this direction, a ₹10,300 crore allocation was approved for the India AI mission to further its AI ecosystem through enhanced public-private partnerships and promote the start-up ecosystem. Amongst other initiatives, the allocation would be used to deploy 10,000 Graphic Processing Units, Large Multi-Models (LMMs) and other AI-based research collaboration and efficient and innovative projects.

With its economy expanding, India's response must align with its commitment towards the SDGs while also ensuring that economic growth is maintained. This would require the judicious use of AI systems to offer solutions that could further the innovation while mitigating its risks. A gradual phase-led approach appears more suitable for India's efforts towards a fair and inclusive AI system.

*The author is the Vice Chancellor, National Law University Delhi. Inputs from Priyanshi, Academic Fellow, NLU Delhi. Views are personal.*

### THE GIST

- With the passing of the United Nations Resolution on Artificial Intelligence, the need and associated discourse on the regulation of AI has entered a new phase.
- Identifying risks is evident in the approach adopted by China, which focuses on prompting AI tools and innovation with safeguards against any future harm to the nation's social and economic goals.
- With its economy expanding, India's response must align with its commitment towards the SDGs while also ensuring that economic growth is maintained.

# Why have madrasas been in the spotlight in Uttar Pradesh?

Why did the Supreme Court stay a ruling of the Allahabad High Court on the U.P. Board of Madrasa Education Act 2004? What was the aftermath of the U.P.'s government's survey on madrasas?

Ziya Us Salam

**The story so far:**

This past week, the Supreme Court stayed a ruling of the Allahabad High Court on the U.P. Board of Madrasa Education Act 2004 calling it an infringement of the fundamental rights guaranteed under the Constitution. The top court also found the High Court's ruling to be against the principles of secularism. The decision gave massive relief to around 17 lakh students of the State's 16,000 recognised madrasas.

**What happened?**

Earlier, the High Court had dubbed the U.P. Board of Madrasa Education Act "unconstitutional" and asked for immediate closure of the madrasas. It called for the relocation and integration of the madrasa students with regular schools. The Supreme Court called the High Court's ruling "not warranted" and imposed a stay on the relocation.

The three-judge Supreme Court Bench, headed by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, scrutinised the provisions of the Act and made it clear that "the object and purpose of the statutory board which is constituted under the Act is regulatory in nature." The apex court did not agree with the High Court's ruling on educational institutions funded by the State being prohibited from imparting religious instruction. The Bench cited a 2002 judgment clarifying the term "religious instruction." The judges felt that striking down the 2004 Act was not the solution towards making a provision for secular education alongside religious instruction.

**Why are madrasas in the spotlight?**

Uttar Pradesh has around 25,000 madrasas of which 16,500 are recognised by the U.P. Madrasa Education Board. Only 560 madrasas receive grants from the government though there have been complaints in recent years of delayed payment and arrears in salaries. The irregular madrasas are usually strapped for resources and manage to provide only elementary learning.

The latest case in the Supreme Court is in continuation of a long trail of madrasas being the focus of attention. In 2022, the U.P. Government ordered a survey of the State's madrasas to find out the number of unrecognised or illegal madrasas. Though the findings of the complete survey were not made public, the State government caused a ripple in Muslim education circles when in October 2023, irregular madrasas operating in the western U.P. township of Muzaffarnagar were ordered to be closed within 24 hours. The Basic Education Department issued a notice to these educational institutions stating that unregistered madrasas operating in Muzaffarnagar would be subject to a daily penalty of ₹10,000 if they were not able to submit relevant documents within three days of the notice.

The move upset minority organisations, with the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind calling the move discriminatory. "These madrasas provide free education to around 10,000 students. They will not have the resources to pay the fine. The order seems targeted at a particular community," a Jamiat official had then said. Around the same time, a Special Investigation Team (SIT) was formed to investigate the sources of the madrasas' alleged foreign funding. The SIT claimed that the madrasas had received over ₹100 crore from abroad over the past three years though evidence was not shared with the public.

**What next?**

Madrasas have been under the spotlight since the Yogi Adityanath government was first sworn in 2017. At the time, the government had instructed madrasas to hoist the national flag and sing the national anthem on Independence Day. The circular issued by the U.P. Madrasa Shiksha Parishad also asked these schools to videograph and photograph the Independence Day function as evidence. The order upset many madrasas who claimed it called into question their patriotism.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court Bench on the U.P. Board Madrasa Education Act case has asked the State to file its counter affidavit before May 31. It has also given the appellants time till June 30 to respond to the State's views. It will hear the arguments in the second week of July.

### THE GIST

- The Supreme Court stayed a ruling of the Allahabad High Court on the U.P. Board of Madrasa Education Act 2004 calling it an infringement of the fundamental rights guaranteed under the Constitution.
- Madrasas have been under the spotlight since the Yogi Adityanath government was first sworn in 2017.
- Uttar Pradesh has around 25,000 madrasas of which 16,500 are recognised by the U.P. Madrasa Education Board. Only 560 madrasas receive grants from the government though there have been complaints in recent years of delayed payment and arrears in salaries.

# Board exam results of classes 5, 8, 9 out just before SC stay

Department of School Education and Literacy has decided to take the Advocate-General's opinion on the next step; tussle over the exams has left parents, students, and teachers, who are the major stakeholders, in utter confusion

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) had already announced the results of the board exams for classes 5, 8, and 9 on Monday, just before the Supreme Court's interim stay. Now, the department has decided to take legal opinion from the Advocate -General for the next course of action.

Ritesh Kumar Singh, Principal Secretary, DSEL, told *The Hindu*: "Exams for classes 5, 8, and 9 were over and the results were declared on Monday. Schools were closed and the academic year of 2023-24 also ended on Monday. We can't reopen the schools because of the SC interim stay. We will take the Advocate General's advice on the next step."

The tussle over the exams has left parents, students, and teachers, who are the major stakeholders, in utter confusion. "Amid the legal battle in the High Court and the Supreme Court, the board exams for classes 5, 8, and 9 were cancelled and rescheduled twice. After a green signal from the High Court Division Bench on March 22, the halted exams were completed recently and the results were announced on Monday. But the Supreme Court again stayed the order of the High Court. However, the department is not clarifying whether the declared results are official or not. It has created a lot of confusion and the children are frustrated. We don't know what will happen in the future," said Vishvanath, parent of a class 8 student.

Pallavi G., a class 9 student, said: "The results have been declared and I have been promoted to class 10. I have decided to prepare for class 10 right away. However, if the Supreme Court cancels this result in its final verdict, do I have to write the class 9 exam again?"

"The department has declared the results for classes 5, 8, and 9. If the Supreme Court cancels the board exams, including the results, in its final verdict, will it order that the children be assessed at the school level again? There is no answer from the authorities in this regard," said a teacher of a government high school, Bengaluru.

## Timeline

**2023**

**October 6 and 9:** State government issues notifications for holding exams for classes 5, 8, 9, and 11 through KSEAB

**October 27:** Registered Unaided Private Schools' Management Association (RUPSMA) files petition in the High Court of Karnataka against notifications

**November 16:** Government authorises KSEAB to conduct exams

**November 27:** Organisation for Unaided Recognised Schools (OURS) files petition challenging October 6 and 9 notifications

**2024**

**March 6:** Single judge of the High Court quashes notifications for holding exams through KSEAB

**March 7:** Government files appeal; Division Bench passes interim order staying March 6 verdict and allows exams to go on

**March 9:** RUPSMA and OURS file Special Leave Petitions (SLPs) before Supreme Court against March 7 interim order

**March 11:** Government resumes exams

**March 12:** Supreme Court quashes High Court's March 7 interim order, asks Division Bench to hear appeals on merit; government halts exams

**March 13-18:** High Court's Division Bench hears arguments on government's appeal and reserves judgment. RTE Students' and Parents' Association (RTESPA) too joins proceedings and opposes exams through KSEAB

**March 22:** Division Bench sets aside March 6 verdict of the single judge, allows government to continue exams

**March 25-28:** KSEAB completes remaining exams

**April 3:** RUPSMA and RTESPA file SLPs before the Supreme Court against the March 22 verdict of the Division Bench of the High Court

**April 8:** Supreme Court stays March 22 verdict of the Division Bench of the High Court

# BDA commences work at Hebbal flyover to ease traffic

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has commenced the construction of a concrete barricade which will allow the dismantling of two spans of the heavily congested Hebbal flyover.

The project, which commenced recently, marks the beginning of a broader plan aimed at easing traffic flow by incorporating a ramp onto the existing structure, connecting Baptist Hospital to the road adjacent the tree park at the junction.

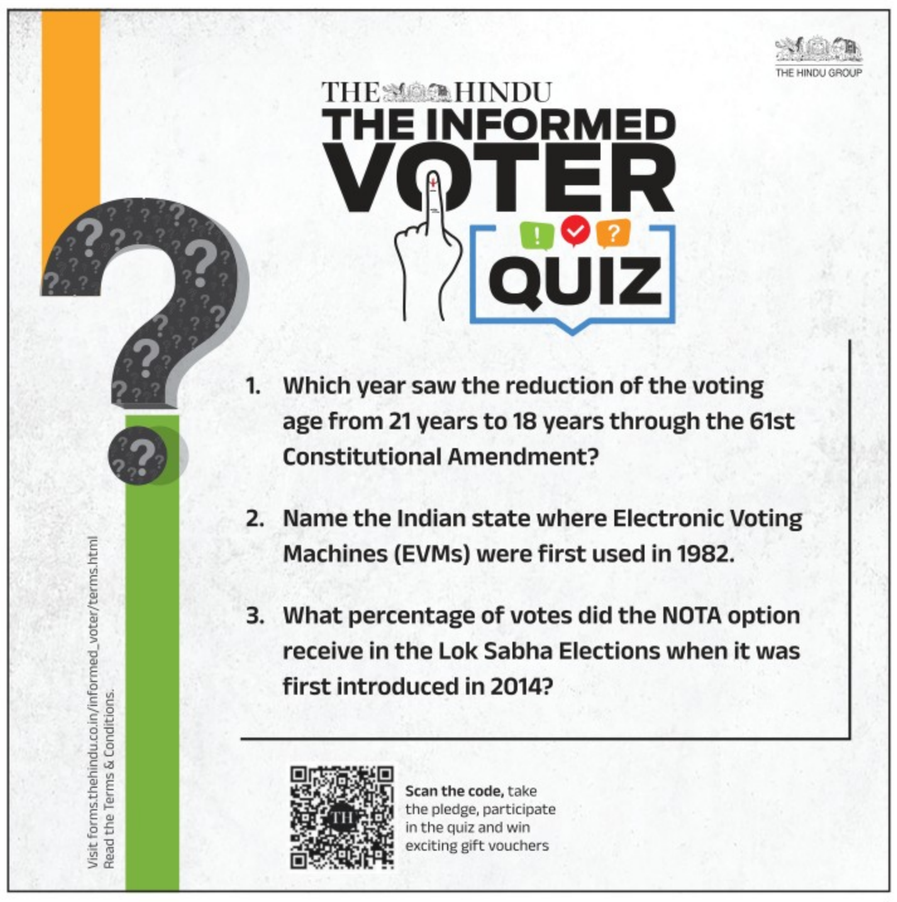
The spans targeted for dismantling are situated near the junction of the ramp utilised by motorists from the K.R. Puram side and the main lines of the flyover.

According to BDA officials, this operation may take four to seven days to complete and is anticipated to result in traffic disruptions lasting approximately four months.

As part of the proposed ramp expansion, additional lanes will be integrated into the main lines of the existing flyover to facilitate smoother traffic flow from the airport direction towards Mehkri Circle.

Additionally, the BDA has initiated discussions with the South Western Railway (SWR) to secure clearance for the construction of a bridge over the existing rail tracks.

In light of these developments, the traffic police have issued an advisory, notifying motorists of the closure of the up ramp for those traveling from K.R. Puram and Nagawara sides during peak hours (8 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 5 p..m. to 8 p.m.). Motorists are advised to utilise the road below the flyover, proceed to the Kodigehalli service road, execute a u-turn, and then access the Hebbal flyover to continue towards Mehkri Circle.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3. What percentage of votes did the NOTA option receive in the Lok Sabha Elections when it was first introduced in 2014?
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# Marked dip in admissions to State board schools

**Jahnavi T.R.**
BENGALURU

For a while now, the number of admissions at State schools has seen a declining trend with parents leaning more towards Central board schools. For the upcoming academic year, with issues like confusion over board examinations for classes 5, 8, 9, and 11 and fears of illegal schools, many State board schools have reportedly had one of the lowest admission turnouts.

"Every year, by this time, we used to get a few enquiries about admissions. This year, we have seen zero interest from parents. We have not had any new admissions so far," said P.M. Satyanarayana, Principal at Presidency International English School.

The NEP has made age requirements mandatory for kindergarten and class 1 admissions. FILE PHOTO

"There is now confusion over the board exams for so many grades, which is not the case with Central schools. All the confusion this year added to the apprehension of parents. Apart from that, there are also factors like unrevised curriculum for classes 1 to 4. While the NCERT syllabus is currently being taught for classes 5 to 10, the curriculum for earlier classes has not been revised in 10 to 15 years. We have hardly had any fresh admissions this year. It is down by over 50% when compared to the previous year," said Natesh Kumar, Principal, Gurukula International School.

**Underage admissions**

With the National Education Policy (NEP) rules making age requirements mandatory for kindergarten and class 1 admissions, some school managements allege that some schools provide admissions even for underage students illegally.

"We do not admit children if they are not four years for LKG, five years for UKG, and six years for class I. Some private schools do not care for such rules. Instead of waiting a few extra months or repeating a grade, parents, without much awareness about the legalities, admit their children to schools where they admit students illegally. This is also a reason for legitimate schools losing out on admissions," Mr. Kumar said.

The managements stress that without stringent action, legitimate schools will have to bear this brunt. "Even if we complain to the respective Block Education Officers , we rarely see any action. There is a lot of corruption," Mr. Satyanarayana said.

This trend of fewer admissions has been around for around three years now, most school managements said.

D. Shashi Kumar, general secretary, Associated Managements of Primary and Secondary Schools, said: "There is a lot of supply of schools in the city now. For parents, schools have become a status symbol and most of them are not aware of legalities. Board shifting has also become very prominent with all the recent developments. Hence, admissions for State Board have come down drastically".

Although some schools have not received any enquiries until now for this year, they are still hopeful that they might get at least a few fresh admissions by the end of April.

# Man who posed as doctor and cheated cab drivers held

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Magadi Road police on Monday arrested a 44-year-old man who, posing as a doctor, allegedly cheated cab drivers with fake currency. The accused, identified as K.R. Sanjay, was caught based on a complaint filed by a cab driver from Kadri, Chandrashekhar M., who lost ₹10,500.

According to the police, the accused, posing as a doctor from a reputed hospital, hired a cab from Bengaluru to Kadri in Andhra Pradesh and on the way stopped the cab for dinner at a hotel near Magadi Road.

The accused later asked the driver for help in transferring ₹10,000 to his online account and offered to pay him cash. The police said that Mr. Chandrashekhar transferred the money to a number given by the accused, which happened to be the online payment number of the hotel where they were dining.

The accused went to the cashier and showed the transaction and got the cash while handing over the fake currency to the cab driver and escaped without even paying the bill of the food. The accused had even borrowed the phone of the driver and escaped leaving an old bag, said the police.

Based on a complaint, a police team tracked down the accused and arrested him from his house at Tambaram in Chennai. The police recovered 21 fake notes of ₹500 denomination and nine mobile phones worth ₹90,000 from him.

# HC slams casual and lethargic approach of State government

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Taking note of many contempt of court cases initiated by litigants against the State government and its agencies for not implementing orders of the court for unreasonably long periods, the High Court of Karnataka on Monday *suo motu* initiated a PIL petition to streamline the procedure for compliance and to create an effective machinery to oversee implementation of the court's orders.

"The orders of the courts so disregarded and neglected for their compliance bring about a situation where the public at large would view that the system has failed. It would be considered that the courts have been losing their authority and their orders do not have any effect on the authorities of the government," the court observed.

A Division Bench, comprising Chief Justice N.V. Anjaria and Justice Krishna S. Dixit, passed the order while pointing out it has come across a large number of cases under the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, in which "the authorities have been found sitting tight over the orders of the court for unreasonably long period."

"The casual, lethargic and insensitive approach on the part of the authorities towards the compliance of the orders and directions of the courts cannot be tolerated. It has to be dealt with sternly. As the justice delayed is justice denied, too belated compliance is not to be countenanced, but has to be viewed as contempt of court itself committed in disguise or in indirect manner," the Bench observed.

The Bench said that *suo motu* proceeding has been initiated for the benefit of the litigants, who were unable to enjoy the results of the litigation which have ended in their favour due by activating the authorities, to discharge their constitutional duty.

"As right to approach the court is a fundamental right, right to reap the fruits of litigation by getting the judgements, orders and directions of the court implemented without booking any delay unimpeded by the lethargic conduct on the part of the authorities, is also a right akin to fundamental," the Bench observed.

The Bench also directed the State and its agencies to inform by June 5 what steps are generally taken by the authorities concerned to attend to the orders and directions of the courts.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MANIKANDESWARI Arumuganayinar, W/o Sivarama Krishnan Vijayakumar, R/at No.105, Sapthagiri Vaibhav, Kodigahalli Main Road, Krishnarajapuram, Kadugodi Plantation Post, Bengaluru-560067, have changed my name from Manikandeswari Arumuganayinar to Manikandeswari Arumuganainar vide affidavit dated 26-03-2024 before Notary Gangaraju.B.N, B'lore

I, B.R. Praveena, S/o Sri.B.R. Ramdass, R/a No.725/1, 4th Cross, Near Nizamia School, Robertsonpet, KGF - 563122, KGF Taluk, Kolar District have changed my name to B.R.Praveen vide affidavit dt: 06.04.2024 sworn before Notary C.Kumar, KGF

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

WE, RAMESH Shanubhoganahalli Thammannagowda & Sheethal Hanumanthaiah, R/at Devamachohalli, Tavarekere Hobli, Ramanagar-562130, presently camped at Bengaluru City have changed our minor daughter's name from Nidhishree to Nidhishree Ramesh vide affidavit dated 02-04-2024 before Notary Meer Hassan, Bangalore.

I, ANDREA D Silva D/o Asif Iqbal Khan residing at Flat No.001, DS Max Saphire Vyalikaval, HBCS Layout, Arabic College Post, Bengaluru-560047 have changed my name to Rasheeda Rana vide affidavit dated 08-04-2024 before Meer Hassan Notary, B'luru

PERSONAL

LOST & FOUND

I, Ananthapadmanaba B , S/o. Late Sri Parameshwara B, Residing at No. 331H, 9th K Main Road, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru- 560040, have Lost my Original Sale deed dated 09.02.1972, Registered as Document No. 4130 /1971-72, Volume 331, Book-1, at pages 195 to 197, before the Sub-Registrar, Srirampura, Bangalore.

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE LXXIV ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH-75)
OS No. 25819/2023
BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI Bank Limited, having its Registered Office at ICICI Tower, Near Chakli Cirle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara-390 007 And its branch office at Mythri Center, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore-560 068 ...Plaintiff
AND :
Sadhana Verma & Anr.
...Defendants
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT NO. 2
To,
Prasoon Rounak
Aged about 36 years,
S/o. Rajesh Kumar Verma,
R/a. C-405, Solitaire Residency, Hennur Main Road, Opp. Kothnur Police Station, Bengaluru- 560 043
...Defendant No. 2
Whereas the Plaintiff has instituted the above proceedings against you seeking recovery of Rs. 4,76,079.10/- (as on 08/03/2023) along with interest at 24% p.a. and other consequential reliefs. You are hereby summoned to appear before the LXXIV Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge, Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore [CCH 75] in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings on the 05/06/2024 at 11:00 A.M. take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned before, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of this court, this the 02nd day of April, 2024.
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court, Mayo Hall Unit
Bangalore
Advocate for Plaintiff
Shiva & Co. Advocates,
No. 109, Commerce House, 9/1, Cunningham Road, Bangalore- 560 052

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ISSN 0971 - 751X

BUILDING BLOCKS

FILE PHOTO

# Understanding the science behind the functioning of a mosquito bat

The bat's working principle is simple. Essentially the mosquito receives an electric shock, just like we might if we were hit by lightning on a stormy night. The mosquito bat is thus, a portable thunderstorm for the mosquito

Adhip Agarwala

As the winter months fall behind us and summer heat starts to rise, we have some visitors in our midst: the all-pervading mosquitos. Everywhere and anywhere, we find these creatures hovering all around us. So among all the electronic and chemical technologies humans have ever developed to battle them, perhaps the most impressive is the 'electric tennis bat'. While someone unaware may mistake it as one of the pieces of sports equipment Indians love, this single-player game is a pleasure to play. You chase and hit an airborne mosquito with the bat. If you succeed, you will hear the sweet sound of the blood-sucker's body crackling to death.

**Complete the circuit**

The bat's working principle is simple. There are three metal meshes. The one at the centre is positively charged and the outer ones are negatively charged. When the layers don't touch each other, current cannot flow. But when a mosquito connects them, a current passes through and kills the insect.

Essentially the mosquito receives an electric shock, just like we might if we were hit by lightning on a stormy night. The mosquito bat is a portable thunderstorm for the mosquito. The physics of sparks and lightning is the same, whether it's in your gas lighter, in the belly of storm clouds or in the mosquito bat.

So the question arises: why do electric sparks – like a bolt of lightning – look white? If this is the 'colour' of electric current, shouldn't the current flowing through electric wires at home also be white? Yet they aren't.

**Batteries and shocks**

Electric current is carried by electrons, the negatively charged fundamental particles that usually revolve around positively charged protons in every atom. Every atom has an equal number of protons and electrons, rendering them electrical neutral.

In any piece of metal such as copper, there is a large number of atoms but every atom also shares some electrons with other atoms. The whole material still remains neutral but these common electrons can freely move from one atom to the other, and conduct current easily.

In an insulator, on the other hand, every atom holds onto its electrons and doesn't share. The air we breathe is a wonderful insulator – as are most of us. This barrier can be torn down by applying a high voltage, which will force electrons out of atoms. Suddenly, instead of a neutrally charged air, we have a gas made of positively charged atoms and negatively charged electrons floating together.

A battery generates electric force. How much electric force is generated depends on the battery's volt value. Higher the voltage, greater the force. For example, the pencil battery that powers our wall clocks is usually 1.5 V. A phone battery has a comparable range.

These are strong enough to drive currents through clocks and phones but not strong enough to give humans electric shocks. That's why you don't have to worry when holding them in your hand. On the other hand, the current supplied to our household appliances comes with a voltage of 220V, which is enough to electrocute us.

During a thunderstorm, the voltage can cross a hundred million volts, powering electrons to fly through the air.

**The 'colour' of electricity**

Strong voltages ionise and pull electrons away from atoms. These unhappy atoms then try to get their electrons back. If the electrons do go back, they need to lose the 'excess' energy they have, and they do this by emitting light. Every time the electron loses some energy, the light has some wavelength. In the case of air, the light the electrons lose is in the range of wavelengths human eyes can see. And this light is what we see.

The colour of the light and the spark depends on the type of atom. In fact, this emission can be thought of as an atom's fingerprint – its unique identifier. For example, in air, most of the atoms are of oxygen and nitrogen and so the sparks are white or near-white. On the other hand, on some alien planet with an atmosphere made of neon, the sparks will look red.

Interestingly this is also the physics which goes into the working of a tube light but in a slightly different way.

Circling back to the mosquitos and our mosquito bats: how much voltage do these devices generate?

It's around 1,400 V – equivalent to approximately a thousand regular batteries, and enough to drive a powerful electric current through the mosquito and at the same time drive electrons out of atoms in the air nearby, thus creating the sparks we see.

In case you are also wondering how certain wavelengths of light can be emitted by certain atoms: it is only by learning quantum mechanics can one understand this. So if you are interested, consider pursuing a course in physics.

And the next time a mosquito troubles you and you end up using the electric bat with crackling success, just remember: it's not just you. Quantum physics, electrons, and the atoms in the air are all joining in to celebrate your victory.

*Adhip Agarwala is an assistant professor of physics at IIT Kanpur.*

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

# Following the success of the mini series 'Shogun', a quiz on the history of the Shogunate, the hereditary military dictatorship of Japan

V. V. Ramanan

**QUESTION 1**
The title 'Shogun' is an abbreviation of the highest warrior rank 'seii taishōgun' and was later applied to all shogunate leaders. What does 'seii taishōgun' mean?

**QUESTION 2**
What were the four social classes in Japan during the Tokugawa Shogunate?

**QUESTION 3**
What is the significance of the Battle of Dan-no-ura in the history of the Shogunate?

**QUESTION 4**
Name the shogun credited with unifying Japan after the Sengoku period?

**QUESTION 5**
Name the policy of isolationism, restricting foreign influences and trade with other countries during the Tokugawa Shogunate.

**QUESTION 6**
If the first capital of the shogunate was Kamakura, what was the capital of Ashikaga clan and of Ieyasu Tokugawa?

**Visual question:**
Name this leader considered the first shogun. WIKIPEDIA COMMONS

**Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:** 1. Superconductors expel _____ _____. **Ans: Magnetic fields**
2. The process Onnes used to liquefy gases. **Ans: Hampson-Linde cycle**
3. The meeting wherein Georg Bednorz and Alex Muller were invited by the American Physical Society to present their findings. **Ans: Woodstock of Physics**
4. The angle at which one sheet of graphene is twisted by 1.1 degrees with respect to the other to acquire the properties of a superconductor. **Ans: Magic angle**
5. The NASA satellite launched in 2004 that tested predictions of general relativity. **Ans: Gravity Probe B**
Visual: The only scientist to have received the Nobel Prize for physics twice. **Ans: John Bardeen**
**Early Birds:** Navtosh Arun| Jyot Prakash Gulati| Saheni George| Shiva Nigam

FROM THE ARCHIVES

# *Know your English*

K. Subrahmanian

" Cop it (S. Lalita, Palghat)"

" 'Cop it' is an informal expression which means 'get into trouble, be punished,' 'be killed.'

*You will cop it for what you have done.*

*He will cop it from his wife for not remembering her birthday.*

'Cop' has several meanings. As a noun, it means 'a policeman,' 'a capture or arrest.'

*He is a nice cop.*

*She was copped for shoplifting.*

'Cop out of something' is 'to go back on a promise, to fail to do what one ought to do, especially through fear.'

*He tried to cop out of it by saying he had no time.*

'Cop-out' is a noun.

*The meeting with the minister was a cop-out. The minister did not discuss the issues at all.*

'Not much cop' or 'no cop' means 'little or no value or use.'

*She is not much cop as a writer.*

*He is no cop as a singer.*

'Copshop' is a police station. 'To cop a plea' means 'to plead guilty to a charge, especially with the intention of escaping more serious punishment which might result from standing trial'. This is recorded in American dictionaries but not in dictionaries published in Britain. Perhaps this expression is used only by American lawyers and judges."

"In the picture (C.C. Jacob, Nagpur)."

" 'In the picture' means 'fully informed.'

*I don't know anything about what happened at the meeting. Please put me in the picture.*

*She insisted on being put in the picture about what happened to her complaint to the police.* There was a time when the expression meant 'to be in the foreground or play a prominent part.'

*He always wants to be in the picture.*

In America the expression came to have the meaning 'be informed, in the know' as a result of the influence of German settlers. It is believed that some German(s) wrongly translated the German phrase 'im bilde sein' and the English-speaking Americans accepted it. The new meaning has almost driven out the old meaning in Britain and America.

A cop saw a thief in a crowd. He copped him and took him to the cop-station. The cop's boss asked him to put him in the picture about the arrest and be vigilant or he would cop it."

"Procrustean (S. Bhatnagar. Jaipur)"

" 'Procrustean' means 'seeking to enforce uniformity by forceful or ruthless methods.' Procrustes was a robber in Greek legend. He used to put his victims on an iron bed and fit them to it by stretching their limbs or cutting them off. Any attempt to bring about uniformity through violent, irrational methods is called 'Procrustean.' 'To stretch or place on the bed of Procrustes' means to bring about crude uniformity.

*He tried to confine our economy to the Procrustean bed of socialism.*

*I detest this Procrustean system of education."*

*Published in The Hindu on August 20, 1991.*

## Word of the day

**Lambaste:**
beat with a cane; censure severely or angrily

Synonyms: flog, scold, berate, rebuke, remonstrate, reprimand, lecture, chide

Usage: *The coach lambasted the team for loosing the match.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/lambastepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /læm'beɪst/, /læm'bæst/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

## INBRIEF

### Controversy after armed man approaches CM to garland him

A video of a man with a gun tucked into his waist climbing on to a vehicle carrying Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to garland him went viral on social media on Monday.

Riyaz Ahmed, a businessman, was taken into custody by the Siddapura police for the security lapse and violation of the model code of conduct.

The BJP has criticised the ruling party on the security lapse.

Inquires revealed that Riyaz had a threat to his life and was under attack in 2019 and hence was allowed to carry weapons. However, the police are verifying whether there was any lapse on part of the police personnel deployed for the CM's security, a police officer said.

### Car laden with explosives seized at border checkpost

The Kolar police on Monday seized a car laden with explosives being transported into the city from neighbouring Andhra Pradesh.

The police have put up checkposts at strategic locations, especially in the border areas, ahead of elections. They intercepted a car during a random check and recovered a huge quantity of explosives headed from Karnataka-Andhra border at Nangali checkpost at Mulbagal taluk in Kolar district .

While one of the accused was caught, his associate managed to escape. The arrested has been identified as Asif Hazrath Ali.

Investigation is on to ascertain the source of the explosives and whether the explosives were transported for illegal quarrying, Kolar SP M. Narayana said.

It may be recalled that the Bellandur police discovered a bunch of gelatin sticks and an electrical detonator stored in a box in a tractor parked at a labour shed opposite a school at Chikkanayakanahalli in Bengaluru on the night of March 17.

# 247 candidates, including 21 women, in the fray for the first phase of polls

Of the 300 candidates who filed valid nomination papers for the Lok Sabha elections by the deadline on April 4, a total of 53 withdrew from the contest by Monday, the last date for withdrawal of candidature; polling is on April 26

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

In all, 247 candidates are in the fray for the first of the two-phase Lok Sabha polls in Karnataka, the polling for which will be held on April 26, after the last date for the withdrawal of nominations on Monday.

Of 300 candidates, who filed valid nomination papers by the deadline on April 4, a total of 53 withdrew from the contest by Monday.

Lok Sabha elections 2024

After scrutiny of the 492 sets of nominations filed by 358 candidates for the April 26 polls, the Election Commission rejected 74 nominations by Saturday.

According to data from the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) for Karnataka, one candidate withdrew on April 6 and 52 on Monday.

**Women candidates**

According to the final list of candidates shared by the Election Commission, 21 of the 247 candidates are women.

With six women candidates contesting from Bengaluru North, this constituency has the highest number of female contestants. While the BJP has fielded incumbent Minister Shobha Karandlaje in this constituency, the Congress' M.V. Rajeev Gowda is in the fray.

While Bengaluru Central and Bengaluru South have three women candidates each, two are in the fray in Chitradurga.

Dakshina Kannada, Tumakuru, Mandya, Mysuru, Chamarajanagar, Bengaluru Rural, and Chickballapur have one woman candidate each.

At 29, the highest number of candidates in the fray is from Chickballapur where three aspirants have withdrawn.

The constituency - where former Health and Medical Education Minister K. Sudhakar and Raksha Ramaiah, son of former Minister M.R. Seetharam, are the prominent contestants - also had the highest number of validly nominated candidates.

Chickballapur is followed by Bengaluru Central where 24 candidates are in the fray. Four candidates withdrew from the contest here by Monday. While Bengaluru South has 22 candidates in the fray, Bengaluru North has 21 followed by 20 in Chitradurga. Hassan and Bengaluru Rural - where former Minister H.D. Revanna's son Prajwal Revanna and his cardiologist uncle C.N. Manjunath are contesting respectively - have 15 candidates each. While Mr. Revanna is contesting on a JD (S) ticket, Dr. Manjunath is the BJP's candidate in Bengaluru Rural.

The BJP's Bengaluru South candidate Tejasvi Surya with Union Minister Anurag Thakur and others during a rally before filing his nomination papers for the Lok Sabha elections in Bengaluru. PTI

### Poll watch

- Total candidates in the fray: **247**, including **21** women
- Candidates who withdrew: **53**
- Candidates whose nominations were valid: **300**
- Six women are contesting from Bengaluru North, the highest
- Three women candidates each in Bengaluru Central and Bengaluru South
- **12** aspirants withdraw from Bengaluru Rural, the highest

### Bengaluru Rural sees highest withdrawals

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

At 12, the highest number of aspirants withdrawing from the fray are from Bengaluru Rural followed by Chamarajanagar where eight have come out from the contest. Bengaluru North and Udupi-Chikkamagaluru have zero withdrawals while one candidate each has withdrawn from Kolar and Dakshina Kannada.

**Least number**

With nine candidates in the fray, Dakshina Kannada has the least number of contestants followed by Udupi-Chikkamagaluru where 10 aspirants are contesting.

### Official caught 'taking bribe'

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Lokayukta officials on Monday trapped a senior Labour inspector red-handed, while allegedly accepting a bribe of ₹9,000 to issue a licence to a hotel.

Based on a complaint by Dikshit, owner of a hotel at HBR Layout, a team led by Inspector Halappa Baladandi, laid the trap and arrested Bhopala R.. He was charged under the The Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and taken into custody for further investigation.

**Timings**
**BENGALURU**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **TUESDAY, APR. 09** | | |
| RISE | 06:11 | SET 18:32 |
| RISE | 06:26 | SET 19:14 |
| **WEDNESDAY, APR. 10** | | |
| RISE | 06:10 | SET 18:32 |
| RISE | 07:13 | SET 20:14 |
| **THURSDAY, APR. 11** | | |
| RISE | 06:09 | SET 18:32 |
| RISE | 08:02 | SET 21:16 |

| Bengaluru Weather | max | min |
|---|---|---|
| Tumakuru | 37 | 27 |
| Mysuru | 38 | 25 |
| Bengaluru | 37 | 24 |

**Bengaluru Today**
**37°C** A dry weather to continue. Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be very warm with uneasy afternoon.

**Bengaluru Tomorrow**
**36°C** The weather will be dry. Morning will be pleasant with mist & haze. Day will be very warm with uneasy afternoon. Night will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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A BG-BGE

## CM, Dy. CM to campaign in A.P., Telangana

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Monday said that he and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah would campaign for the Congress candidates in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. They will also campaign in other north Indian States after the end of the two phases of Lok Sabha elections in Karnataka.

They will campaign in Andhra Pradesh, which will go to Assembly polls on May 13. Mr. Shivakumar has already campaigned in Kerala.

Meanwhile, Vani Shivaram, wife of retired IAS officer and BJP leader K. Shivaram, joined Congress. Shivaram died in February 2024. The day also saw former journalist and MP Tejaswini Gowda being appointed as the party's spokesperson. She would also participate in the party's campaign.

Vani Shivaram, wife of retired IAS officer K. Shivaram, joining the Congress in Bengaluru on Monday.

## Govt. is robust and stable, says Siddaramaiah

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday asserted that the Congress government headed by him stands "robust and stable." Hitting out at the Opposition BJP leaders who have been saying that State is facing bankruptcy, he said it appears that it is their "intellect that is facing bankruptcy." Accusing the saffron party of "blabbering" about the State going bankrupt because of a loan of ₹10,000 crore in the April-June quarter last year, he said during 2020-21, the Basavaraj Bommai government had taken a loan of ₹84,528 crore, 2021-22 saw an additional borrowing of ₹67,332 crore, and in 2022-23, the loan reached ₹72,000 crore. "To repay this, ₹43,580 crore was spent in 2022-23. The responsibility to settle these debts falls on us," he said.

> SC's piercing scrutiny of the Centre's callous delay in releasing drought relief funds is a ringing vindication for State.
>
> **M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA**
> Congress candidate for Bengaluru North

## Seizures cross ₹288 crore

The total pre-poll seizures since March 16 when the model code of conduct came into force in Karnataka has crossed ₹288 crore. This includes seizure of ₹2.62 crore cash in Bengaluru Central constituency and gold and silver worth ₹7.06 crore in Ballari. The total amount of cash seized was ₹44.09 crore.

> Let Congress leaders show documents on tax devolution when UPA was in power and BJP will give details of Mr. Modi's contribution to State.
>
> **C.T. RAVI**
> BJP leader

The Sharavathi Valley Hydroelectric Project has submerged vast areas and displaced hundreds of families in Shivamogga district. SATHISH G.T.

# *Sharavathi project: Land issue occupies prime space in campaign*

**Sathish G.T.**
SHIVAMOGGA

Every election season, the issue of granting land to the families displaced owing to the Sharavathi Valley Hydroelectric Project comes to the fore in political debates. Leaders of both the BJP and the Congress trade allegations against each other on the issue, blaming the opposite for the delay in resolving it.

BJP Lok Sabha member B.Y. Raghavendra, who is seeking re-election on BJP ticket, in his campaign speeches, has been blaming the Congress for the delay in granting land to displaced families. He termed the issue "sin" of the Congress, suggesting that it was the result of Congress' mishandling over decades.

### Forest Act and its impact

Until the Forest Conservation Act came into force in 1980, the State government had powers to denotify forest land. Instead of making use of the provision, successive Congress governments ignored the issue, leaving the displaced people in a quandary. He also took the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government to task for not moving the Supreme Court as the Ministry of Environment, Forestry, and Climate Change returned the State government's proposal for de-reservation of forest land.

The hydroelectric project that was planned to generate power in the 1960s submerged vast tracts of agriculture and forest land, besides displacing hundreds of families. Those who were affected were shown alternative land in the forest areas of Sagar, Tirthahalli, Shivamogga, Shikaripur, and Bhadravathi taluks.

More recently, the State government issued 56 orders between 1994 and 2017 that dereserved the forest land so that the displaced families could get ownership of the land they cultivated. However, following a public interest litigation by Girish Achar, a resident of Hosagara taluk, in Karnataka High Court, the orders that deserved the forest land were cancelled in 2019. The previous BJP government sent a proposal to the Centre seeking approval for denotification of 9,129 acres of forest land. However, the Centre returned it, citing court orders that discouraged de-reserving forest land.

### Congress's counter

B.A. Ramesh Hegde, Congress spokesperson, countered the allegations of Mr. Raghavendra, and said the proposal for de-reserving of forest land was returned by the Centre on court orders in matters that are in no way similar to the issue of people displaced by the Sharavathi project. "Mr. Raghavendra, being MP, has failed to convince the Centre on the issue," he said.

Further, he said during the Congress rule, the forest land was de-reserved and families were issued title deeds. "In fact, Mr. Raghavendra himself attended the ceremonies where the records were distributed. Then he praised the Congress government. But, now he is blaming the Congress for political reasons," he said.

Madhu Bangarappa, Minister in-charge of Shivamogga district, has been assuring the affected people that the Congress government will resolve the issue.

# Seer jumps into poll fray; accuses BJP of promoting a small community

He trains his guns on BJP for its 'appeasement politics' and accuses Pralhad Joshi of 'crushing the careers of Veerashaiva-Lingayat leaders'

CASTE POLITICS

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Accusing Union Minister and BJP candidate from Dharwad Lok Sabha constituency Pralhad Joshi of "crushing the careers of Veerashaiva-Lingayat leaders", Fakir Dingaleshwara Swami of Bhavaikyatha Mahasamsthana Mutt announced his decision to contest as an Independent candidate from Dharwad, on Monday.

He accused the BJP of "appeasement politics" by providing prominence to the small community of Brahmins and ignoring big communities, including Veerashaiva-Lingayats and Kurubas, in Karnataka.

"The BJP has ignored hundreds of communities. Kurubas, who form the third largest chunk of the population after Veerashaiva-Lingayats and Vokkaligas, have been denied ticket. It has given ticket to three from a small community [Brahmins]. People of Karnataka are asking if this is fair. There were nine Veerashaiva-Lingayats in the last Lok Sabha, but not one was made a Minister of Cabinet rank. The 2% community got two Cabinet berths while Veerashaiva-Lingayats were given Minister of State rank. The BJP is using all other communities to get to power," the seer told mediapersons in Bengaluru.

Dingaleshwara Swami (centre) and other seers at a press conference in Bengaluru on Monday, where the former announced that he would contest the upcoming Lok Sabha elections from Dharwad.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

### 'Election fixing'

He described his fight as a "*dharma yuddha* for self-respect" as Dharwad Lok Sabha constituency is witnessing "election fixing" by both national parties. "My entry to politics is for life, and not restricted to this election alone," he announced. Continuing his tirade against the BJP, the seer asked a series of questions, "Why is education portfolio always given to them [Brahmins]? Why was V. Somanna, a leader in Bengaluru South constituency, nominated from Tumakuru that has resulted in infighting? Why was Bengaluru South candidate Tejasvi Surya not sent to Tumakuru to test his strength?" He, however, hastened to add that he is not against the Brahmin community. "I neither appease nor oppose any particular caste," he said.

### All parties use Basava

Saying he does not blame any one party, he said Congress too has not shared power properly after seeking votes from the Lingayat community. "Both parties have used Basava Tatva to get votes, but have failed to provide social justice."

He further said, "I have come to politics to end the maladministration of Mr. Joshi that has been going on for 20 years." He also blamed Mr. Joshi for K.E. Kantesh, son of senior leader K.S. Eshwarappa, not getting BJP ticket from Haveri.

On voices of support coming from seers to Mr. Joshi, he said, "For BJP, it is important to protect Mr. Joshi. For me, it is important to protect Dharwad." He acknowledged that many leaders requested him not to contest. When asked if he would join any party in future, the seer said, "Seers of mutts are not independent, but are part of the community. The community will take the decision."

Fakir Dingaleshwara Swami is the successor of the Fakkireshwar mutt in Shirahatti in Gadag district. He represents a syncretic tradition and has a following among members of both Hindu and Muslim communities in the region.

## This is not an election based on caste: Joshi

**The Hindu Bureau**
HUBBALLI

Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Coal and Mines Pralhad Joshi has declined to comment on Fakira Dingaleshwara Swami's decision to contest from Dharwad in the Lok Sabha elections.

Speaking to pressperssons in Hubballi, Mr. Joshi only said that this election was not caste-based. "How was India before Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to power and how is India now? This is not an election based on caste but on national issues and challenges. This is an election to decide whether the country needs Mr. Modi or INDI Alliance," he said.

On Dingaleshwara Swami's allegation on "internal adjustments" by national political parties, he said the party's spokespersons would reply it. He said he would treat the seer's remarks against him as his "blessings."

# Despite higher spending limit, invisible expenditure by candidates on the rise

**Afshan Yasmeen**
BENGALURU

Official election expenditure limit for Lok Sabha candidates has seen a sharp rise over the years. From ₹25,000 in the first general election in 1951-1952, candidates can now officially spend ₹95 lakh. Despite the higher limit, the "invisible" expenditure by candidates is on the rise election after election.

The expenditure limit refers to the amount a candidate is allowed to legally spend on election campaigning, including public meetings, rallies, advertisements, posters and banners, and vehicles. All candidates are required to submit their expenditure statement to the Election Commission (EC) within 30 days of completion of an election.

During the Assembly polls of 2023, the total pre-poll seizures in Karnataka, including cash, liquor, drugs, and precious metals, had touched a whopping ₹733.43 crore till the day of election on May 10. While the EC has further raised the bar this time for ensuring inducement-free election, candidates are adopting innovative appeasement tactics.

Apart from cookers, non-stick utensil sets, mixies, smart watches, LED TVs, fans, grocery coupons, sarees/other clothing material, gold ornaments and silver utensils, the Election Commission's major seizures this poll season include liquor, drugs and cash in huge amounts. The seizures are being mainly done in godowns and manufacturing units where the production register does not tally with the physical stocks available with them, said Venkatesh Kumar R., Additional Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) in Karnataka.

> Without realistic limits, we do not have a level-playing field in elections, as a wealthy candidate can totally outspend other candidates. Such limits are there in other countries to ensure this. Party heads need to then sign an affidavit that they will adhere to the limits.
>
> **TRILOCHAN SASTRY**
> Chairman and Founder of Association for Democratic Reforms

> As long as black money economy exists, there is no way you can control invisible expenditure. The expenditure by candidates will keep increasing because the source is available. Just putting a curb on expenditure does not solve the problem.
>
> **SANDEEP SHASTRI**
> National Coordinator of Lokniti Network

### Set realistic limits

Election experts, who are of the view that realistic spending limits need to be set by the EC in consultation with all political parties, said "invisible" expenditure cannot be controlled as long as the thriving black money economy exists.

Trilochan Sastry, Chairman and Founder of Association for Democratic Reforms, said realistic limits on "visible and invisible" expenditure need to be set by EC in consultation with all parties. "Without realistic limits, we do not have a level playing field in elections as a wealthy candidate can totally outspend other candidates. Such limits are there in other countries to ensure this. Party heads need to then sign an affidavit that they will adhere to the limits," Professor Sastry said.

He said the EC should be prepared to countermand elections where limits are crossed. "EC has expenditure observers in each constituency. Their observations should result in quick action. Public also needs to be made aware that they should not vote for those who overspend as it is against the rule agreed by parties. This awareness campaign should be taken up by the EC," he said.

### Black money economy

Sandeep Shastri, National Coordinator of Lokniti Network (that conducts Election Studies), attributed the problem of "invisible" expenditure by candidates to the thriving black money economy. "As long as this parallel economy exists, there is no way you can control invisible expenditure. The expenditure by candidates will keep increasing because the source is available and as long as you do not plug the black money economy, the appetite to gain resources from the parallel economy will always be there for candidates. Just putting a curb on the expenditure does not solve the problem," he said.

He said unaccounted for wealth in the society finds its way into campaign expenditure because it is an opportunity to convert that into white money.

## Some associates of Preetham Gowda meet Congress candidate

**The Hindu Bureau**
SHIVAMOGGA

A few supporters of former BJP MLA Preetham Gowda are said to have announced support for Congress candidate Shreyas Patel in the Lok Sabha elections.

Uddur Purushothham, who until recently identified with Preetham Gowda, is said to have decided to support Mr. Patel. He and his supporters met the Congress candidate. A photo in which Uddur Purushothham is seen greeting the Congress candidate has gone viral on social media platforms.

However, Mr. Gowda, who is in Mysuru, told the media that none of his associates had announced support for the Congress candidate and he would meet them all on Ugadi in Hassan. "We will do everything required to get the NDA candidate elected in Hassan," he said.

"Holenarasipur is represented by H.D. Revanna, father of the NDA candidate. It is my responsibility to ensure his vote margin in Hassan is higher, at least by one vote, than that of Holenarasipur," he said. Prajwal Revanna is expected to meet Mr. Preetham in Hassan on Tuesday and seek his support.

Preetham Gowda

**These supporters are said to have announced support for Congress candidate Shreyas Patel in the Lok Sabha elections**

According to sources in the BJP, a few workers identified with the party, have personal reasons not to support the JD(S) candidate, Mr. Prajwal Revanna. In the Assembly elections held last year, workers of the JD(S) and BJP fought against each other. The rivalry continued even after the elections. It is said, many have been facing police cases because of political reasons. "Even if the party instructs them to work for the JD(S) candidate, they are not in a mood to follow it," said a BJP worker.

# What is Bengaluru's new property tax system that aims to fix leakage and rationalise the system

Under this system, properties are categorised into six clear and unambiguous heads which are residential (self use & tenanted), commercial, industrial, star hotels, exempted and fully vacant lands

EXPLAINER

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The objective of the new property tax system is not to escalate the tax burden, but to simplify and rationalise the process. FILE PHOTO

**The story so far**

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has now halted the implementation of the new property tax regime fearing backlash from the citizens ahead of parliament elections.

The new system of levying tax is based on the guidance value of the properties, and has done away with zonal classification for tax and is expected to increase the collection. The government's lack of intent to implement the policy immediately has also brought discontent among IAS officials in the BBMP who were behind framing of the policy to mobilise the revenue.

**How is the new tax regime structured?**

In a bid to streamline property taxation and ensure fairness, a new property tax system was introduce, according to the BBMP. The primary objective of this system is to simplify processes, rationalise taxation, and establish a fair framework by utilizing individual property guidance values rather than a single tax rate based on average values within an area.

Under the new system, properties are categorised into six clear and unambiguous categories which are residential (self use & tenanted), commercial, industrial, and star hotels, exempted and fully vacant lands.

This overhaul eliminates the previous six-zone structure and the complicated seven forms required for filing property returns.

Citizens in the new system are required to input their property details online, including plot or land area, built-up area, and the property's designated use. Tax calculation is then based on the current guidance value applicable to the property.

Citizens have the option to question the displayed guidance value and provide supporting documents for correction online. The BBMP will review these claims within three months, with unaddressed claims considered accepted.

Notably, property tax rates were last revised in 2016, with a 20% increase for residential properties and a 25% increase for non-residential properties. There has been no increase in rates over the past eight years.

**What is the objective of new system?**

The objective of the new property tax system is not to escalate the tax burden, but to simplify and rationalise the process. A maximum cap of 10% has been implemented for yearly increases on individual properties, said a senior BBMP official in the Revenue section.

The new system prescribes nominal rates to determine property tax as a percentage of the Guidance Value. A dry run conducted on over 18 lakh properties using the newly prescribed rates aims to ensure that the tax burden remains manageable, he added. According to the new system under residential properties, property tax for tenanted property will be 0.2% of the guidance value; for self-occupied tax, it would be 0.1%; and for fully vacant land, it would be 0.025% of the guidance value. Under the non-residential or commercial properties, property tax for non-residential property (occupied) will be 0.5% of the guidance value, and for fully vacant land, it will be 0.025%.

**What was the old system?**

Earlier, the property tax was calculated based on five zonal classifications, with zones classified as 'A' having high guidance value bandwidth and 'E' having the least. According to BBMP senior official, this resulted in property owners in 'A' zone paying much more tax compared to owners having the same built-up area in other zones. The property tax was done through Self Assessment Scheme (SAS). The SAS was first proposed in the year 1990. In the year 2002 SAS was implemented by the then Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BMP).

The format for the Self Assessment Scheme for property tax collection was presented at the Bangalore Agenda Task Force (BATF) summit on January 24, 2000, by V Ravichandar, which was endorsed by the then Chief Minister S.M. Krishna and implemented by Jairaj, the then BMP Commissioner, and Vasanth Rao, the then BMP Finance Head.

The first reclassification was done by BMP for three core city areas, West, East and South. It divided an area into five zones - A, B, C, D and E - with Zone A attracting the highest tax and Zone E the lowest in April, 2000. Later in 2007, Seven City Municipal Councils (CMC), one Town Municipal Council (TMC) and 110 villages were merged to form Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). In 2008, rules were revised under various categories, and BBMP divides an area into six zones - A, B, C, D E and F. Most of the new areas which were added were classified under Zone F. The second zonal classification was done in 2016-2017. The details about the old system are provided by the BBMP. Under the SAS, the citizens had to voluntarily declare the area and built-up area of the property which they own.

According to Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar, the SAS causes tax leakage as many citizens showed less than the actual property size and built-up area and many commercial properties were declared as residential. This made the BBMP to rethink the policy to rationalise the system.

**Why some senior IAS officers are unhappy**

A few senior IAS officials who worked on the new tax system are disappointed with the government for not implementing the new policy this financial year. A official said, "A team dedicatedly worked to revamp the tax system to fix leakage and not implementing it has undermined the team's effort."

**How has the tax collection scenario been this financial year?**

The BBMP for the next financial year aims to mobilise ₹5,000 crore from tax and ₹1,000 crore non-tax revenue. This financial year, the BBMP has collected a record ₹3,900 crore which is about ₹ 600 crore more than the previous financial year. For this to happen, the BBMP started by sending SMS to defaulters, and pulled out BESCOM data to find out commercial establishmens which have been deceiving the authority by paying residential tax. The BBMP even shut down many commercial establishments to force them to pay. The civic body floated new one-time settlement payment scheme to encourage defaulters to make payments

This was initiated after Mr. Shivakumar directed the Revenue Department to come up with plans to collect more tax revenue. While emphasising on collection, the BBMP also came up with the new idea to fix leakage which was approved by Mr. Shivakumar. Unlike Mumbai City Corporation that gets a portion of share in the GST collected by the Maharashtra, the BBMP is largely dependent on its own revenues to run the city.

## Kotak Alternate Asset Managers' Iconic Fund raises ₹2,000 crore

The open-ended fund has been conceptualised as an equity multi-advisor portfolio solution. GETTY IMAGES

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Kotak Alternate Asset Managers Limited (Kotak Alt) announced that its Kotak Iconic Fund has successfully raised ₹2,000 crore. The open-ended fund has been conceptualised as an equity multi-advisor portfolio solution. The fund has maintained a flexible approach by adopting diversified active and passive strategies across market capitalisation and tactical allocations.

According to the release, in today's dynamic investing landscape, investors are finding it increasingly difficult to keep up with rising volatility and an ever-changing market environment, which makes it challenging for investors to build and maintain equity portfolios across market cycles. Kotak Iconic Fund solves this with its disciplined framework-based investing & risk management to deliver a smooth investing journey.

Nishant Kumar, Head of Discretionary Portfolio Solutions, Kotak Alternate Asset Managers Limited said, " This is a one-stop solution for their equity allocation that dynamically handles strategy selection, allocation and performance monitoring. Kotak Iconic Fund is built on a foundation of rigorous research, disciplined framework-based investing, risk management and a deep understanding of the Indian economic landscape."

## *Kannada poet Mamta G. Sagar wins international award*

The Bengaluru-based writer was conferred the World Literary Prize from the World Organization of Writers on April 6 at a ceremony in Abuja, Nigeria

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Mamta G. Sagar, a Bengaluru-based Kannada poet, writer, academic and activist, has recently won the World Literary Prize from the World Organization of Writers (WOW) for her contributions to the world of literature. Dr Sagar, a facilitator at Srishti Manipal Institute of Art, Design, and Technology, known for her involvement in diverse forms of transdisciplinary creative writing and cultural industries, received the award on April 6 at a ceremony in Abuja, Nigeria.

Mamta G. Sagar at the World Literary Prize award ceremony in Abuja, Nigeria.

**Power of literature**

"I am deeply honoured to receive the award and diploma."

"This recognition is a testament to the power of literature to inspire and provoke thought irrespective of the language," said Dr. Sagar on receiving the news of her win. "I am humbled to be acknowledged among such esteemed writers."

**Literary works**

In addition to this award, Dr. Sagar, who has always actively engaged in community-based projects centred around poetry, has also been honoured with the LIFFT award, the gold medal, and a diploma for her outstanding achievements in the field of literature.

Some of the themes she has addressed in her work, over the years, include identity politics, feminism, and cultural diversity. Sagar produced Interversions 1,2, & 3, three films based on her poetry collections, with Srishti Films as part of the Wales-India collaborative projects (2018). She has also written and produced For Gauri, a video presentation of her poem written for the late journalist-activist Gauri Lankesh. She has several works to her credit including Kaada Navilina Hejje, Chukki Chukki Chandakki, Nadiya Neerina Teva, and Illi Salluva Maatu.

Congratulating Dr. Sagar on the occasion, Dr. Arindam Das, Director, SMI said, "Dr. Sagar's achievement not only reflects her exceptional talent but also underscores our commitment to cultivating a community of erudite and exemplary practitioners who bring their real-world experience into the classroom, enriching the academic journey of our students."

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO, APRIL 9, 1974

## Youth's Death in Police Outpost: Enquiry On

Bangalore, April 8: The Government would arrange for a detailed probe into the reported death of a youth, a suspect in some theft case at the Hebbagodi police outpost (Bangalore district) on April 6 in such a manner as would satisfy all, Mr. S.K. Krishna, Minister for Industries and Parliamentary Affairs, assured the Karnataka Assembly to-day.

He said the enquiry would be conducted after the receipt of the postmortem and the chemical examiner's reports by the Government. Those found guilty would be punished, irrespective of their rank. Already, the Head constable and constable had been placed under suspension. The Deputy Superintendent of Police, Bangalore Subdivision was enquiring.

## MLAs Demand Closure of 'Teaching Shops'

Bangalore, April 8: Many members expressed concern in the Karnataka Assembly to-day over the 'deleterious effects' on education by the 'commercialisation' of education by some private institutions and asked the Government to act quickly and firmly to root out such schools. During the inconclusive consideration of the demands of the education stationery and printing departments amounting to over Rs. 80 crores, members made out a strong case for immediate action against 'unscrupulous managements' which had turned the schools into 'commercial establishments. One member described the private institutions as 'cancer on education.'

## CITYBEATS

### Welcome spring

**APRIL 9**
Justbe by Nidhi Nahata celebrates Ugadi with a special menu that comes served on plantain leaf. The menu is curated to mark the onset of spring and represents new beginnings in south India and promotes celebrating Ugadi in a conscious and compassionate manner.
*From 1pm to 3pm. Call 8884163061.*

### All things sweet and bitter

**APRIL 9**
Toca Brigade is celebrating Ugadi with a specially curated *thali* this year. Get set to indulge in *obbattu, mavinakayi chitranna*, Mysore bonda, steamed rice, beans *palya, shavige payasa, kosambari* and much more. This special thali is priced at ₹495.
*At Toca Brigade, Brigade Rd, above Levi's showroom, Shanthala Nagar.*

### Chinese for Ugadi

**APRIL 9**
Chowman has launched a range of vegetarian dishes for Ugadi. Lemon coriander thick soup, Thai curry and vegetables in chili basil sauce are some of the dishes that you can look forward to. The specials can be ordered on Chowman app, Swiggy/Zomato or at its outlets in the city.
*Available from noon to 12.30pm with a discount of ₹175 on orders above ₹599.*

# Season for music, reason for melody

The Sree Ramaseva Mandali's 86th year music celebrations will see vocal and instrumental presentations, with Grammy winner Ricky Kej giving the concluding performance of the season

**Ranjani Govind**

There is a sense of supreme satisfaction for the Chamarajpete Sree Ramaseva Mandali Ramanavami Celebrations Trust as the centenary tribute for their founder, SV Narayana Swamy Rao, will see them honouring 100 musicians from Karnataka during their 32-day music festival from April 9 to May 10. There will be 64 concerts in the evening at the specially erected 40, 000 square foot *pandal* at the Fort High School grounds, with spiritual discourses in the morning, including *Satyatma Tirtharu* (April 29 to May 3).

"The pandal premises is home to me and my son Abhijith till mid-May," says SN Varadaraj, a vocalist and mechanical engineer whose passion for music helped him continue the Mandali's Ramothsava after the demise of his father in 2000. "As we are celebrating 50 years of renaming Mysore State as Karnataka, we thought the spirit of Karnataka Sambrama has to reverberate on our platform too. So, all the musicians participating this year have been asked to take up *Dasa Sahitya* as their mainstay in honour of Kannada."

**Taking forward a legacy**

Though the Mandali's commitment is towards encouraging local talent, there is always an equal measure of musicians from other states, eagerly looking forward to being part of secular Ramothsava celebrations. Guests have included *nadaswara* maestro TN Rajarathinam Pillai, Bade Ghulam Ali Khan, Ali Akbar Khan, Kadri Gopalnath, KJ Yesudas, MS and MLV, L Subramaniam, M Balamurali Krishna and Begum Parveen Sultana. "This legacy continues," says Vardaraj.

The endeavour to start such an enterprising music mission had its modest beginnings when SVN as a teenager collected ₹20 for a Holi Kamana Habba in 1939. When he found an excess of ₹10 in his kitty, he decided the collective effort could help serve the cause of fine arts during Ramanavami. Thus, the Mandali was born the same year, with a few days of music on the 3rd Main Road footpath in Chamarajpet.

**This year, the participating musicians were asked to take up *Dasa Sahitya* in honour of Kannada**

Within the first 10 years, the Mandali had seen young talents such as violinist T Chowdiah, the Alathur Brothers, Madurai Mani Iyer, TR Mahalingam and Chembai Vaidyanatha Bhagavathar participate, before the venue for concerts moved to the Bangalore City Institute Compound in the early 1950s, with the Mysore Maharaja Jayachamaraja Wadiyar taking part in several inaugural ceremonies with statesman C Rajagopalachari. The Fort High School Grounds of the Education Department hosted the music programme from 1967.

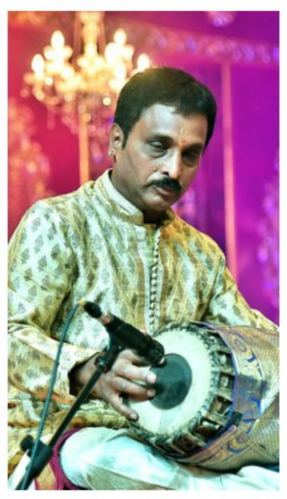
**Specials of the season**

Abhijith Varadaraj says the Mandali will bring out a book *Tanu Ninnadu,* on SVN as a tribute to the violinist-organiser's warm personality, fiery passion towards secularism and determination to bring oneness through music.

"The book will include details of how over the last 25 years, Vardaraj worked towards convincing youth to attend concerts in large numbers. My grandfather SVN too, would conduct concerts to welcome new audiences, making way for artistes such as Vani Jayaram who would base their shows with an underlying allegiance to classical music."

This season one can look forward to off-the-beaten-track shows with a classical perspective from Bengaluru-based youngsters such as Sivasri Skandaprasad, a popular face on social platforms for her devotional, classical and playback singing; classically trained Harish Sivaramakrishnan, lead vocalist of Carnatic progressive rock band Agam; and three-time Grammy winning music composer Ricky Kej.

Amongst the noteworthy 13 duo concerts included in the series, one can watch out for vocalist Bangalore S Shankar and his son Ramani Shankar; *jugalbandi* treats by Sandeep Narayan and Jayateerth Mevundi and violin HK Venkatram and Shehnai Ashwani Shankar; P Unnikrishnan with daughter Uttara; and the Bangalore Brothers among others.



**Hymns of harmony** (From top left) violinists Lalgudi GJR Krishnan and Lalgudi Vijayalakshmi, Ricky Kej, Praveen V, SVN honouring GS Pathack and with flute Mahalingam. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**Mandali Awards**

Among the many awards to be presented this year, is the Ramagana Kalacharya to be given to mridangist Bangalore V Praveen, son of veteran percussionist ML Veerabhadraiah. He is amongst the last of youngsters taking forward the schooling he received from guru Palghat Mani Iyer.

"We choose this award for people who have worked hard to popularise a signature stylistic formatting and been disseminating it through their students," says Abhijith, adding that Praveen was a favourite of SVN, as he had handpicked him as a little boy of eight to accompany MS Subbulakshmi – a performance that left a lasting impact on many. The SVN Rao Global Music Award will be conferred on violinist siblings Lalgudi GJR Krishnan and Lalgudi Vijayalakshmi. Varadaraj says, "If there is one family that has taken Indian music to global audiences, it is the Lalgudi family and GJR and Vijayalakshmi are fifth-generation musicians, the authentic torchbearers of the illustrious Lalgudi *parampara*."

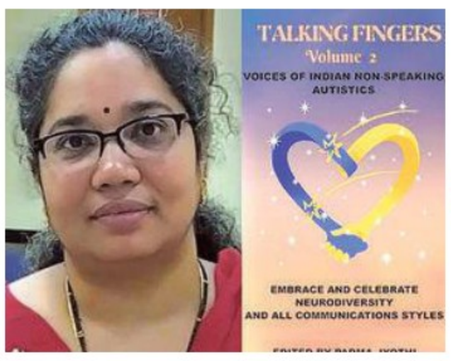
One of the duo's initiatives, Violin Wise saw them fly down American musician and violin maker James Wimmer to conduct regular workshops and impart the intricate art of violin craftsmanship and repair. The collaboration resulted in the Violin Wise team becoming skilled as international quality violin makers, able to repair and conserve instruments. Wimmer owes his skill to his jazz pianist mother and his training in Germany under master violin makers Wolfgang Uebel and Herbert Rainer Knobel.

This year's Ramanavami concerts begin on April 9 with a Nadaswara recital by Mysore Vijay Surya and will be followed by a presentation by Trichur Brothers.

*For programme details and to book tickets go to www.ramanavami.org*

# Addressing neurodiversity

**S B Vijaya Mary**


TALKING FINGERS
Volume 2
VOICES OF INDIAN NON-SPEAKING AUTISTICS
EMBRACE AND CELEBRATE NEURODIVERSITY AND ALL COMMUNICATIONS STYLES

**Learning to listen** Author Padma Jyothi and her book. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

It is fascinating to see how technology, such as apps, helps individuals with non-verbal autism express themselves, bridges communication gaps and provides insight into their thoughts and perspectives. *Talking Fingers: Volume 1*, edited by Padma Jyothi and Chitra Paul in 2022, played a significant role in shedding light on this aspect, not only for those unfamiliar with non-verbal autism but also for parents who gained new insights into their children's experiences and perspectives.

Padma Jyothi is the lone editor for *Talking Fingers Vol 2 –Voices of Indian Non-Speaking Autistics*, a poignant edition delving into the experiences and viewpoints of non-verbal autistic individuals, focusing on their stories and perspectives.

Expanding on the format of the first book, the second volume presents the 16 co-authors' answers to a set of questions, with additional prompts allowing them to share personal mantras and sources of happiness. Answering a set of 25 questions, the co-authors respond to topics such as the realisation of their condition, their acceptance, communication journey, life after learning to communicate, happy moments, likes and dislikes, views on neuro-diversity and others.

The foreword is written by the Bengaluru-based 18-year-old author and blogger Aditi Sowmyanarayan, a non-speaking autistic, who uses Avaz, a text-to-speech app to communicate. Aditi encourages people to read the book with an open mind and introduce an alternative mode of communication to someone who needs it.

**Meaningful insights**

Many views expressed by the authors are eye-openers. Hear what 14-year-old Mithul Sandeep says: "Medical experts say I am autistic. Of course, I have some limitations, like difficulty in speaking and a couple of behavioural problems, and they call it ASD. I believe every individual has some limitation."

Says Padma, "By showcasing these insights, readers will realise how similar we are. I tried highlighting the common universal needs shared by all individuals, regardless of their verbal ability or sensory struggles. The underlying message emphasises the universal desire for friendship, understanding, and respect.

In the Editor's Note, Padma writes: "In my two decades of journey as an autism parent, I have seen a lot of positive changes in the way autism is understood better and the tiny sprouts of acceptance and inclusion we see in the Indian society. But for non-speaking autistics, who constitute about 40% of the total individuals with autism, life has not changed much." This book is a valuable resource for increasing awareness and understanding of non-verbal autism within communities.

**Song sung blue** Radha Thomas at a performance with Aman Mahajan. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

# Speaking to the soul

**Anurag Tagat**

Although Radha Thomas has been an established vocalist from the 1970s, as part of rock bands such as Human Bondage, jazz has always been her favorite genre. Like any jazz vocalist anywhere in the world, the standards are a key part of a singer's repertoire. To that end, Thomas counts up to at least 500 jazz songs that she learned to sing across her career, taking her to cities like New York, Warsaw, London and Paris. "

There are 10 jazz standards that she picked for her new album *As I Sing*, interpreting them in her own way with American jazz guitarists Reg Schwager, Pete McCann, Paul Meyers and Tom Dempsey. With just guitar and vocals, *As I Sing* is also a homage of sorts to legendary jazz artistes Ella Fitzgerald and Joe Pass' duets in Hannover.

Radha says over a phone call, "You may get fed up of a particular song and not sing it for a while. That's how you increase your repertoire of songs. For this particular album, I actually picked the songs carefully because I wanted each song to have something that I brought to it."

The way Radha sees it, a vocalist does not have to sing a jazz standard the same way as any other singer. Case in point, 'Summertime' is the opening track from *As I Sing* and one can hear Radha speak and sing the jazz standard in her distinctive vocal style. Understandably, it is the song that is also picked up the most on streaming platforms.

Recorded over a span of about four months even as Radha had a bout of COVID-19 and "other sundry obstacles," *As I Sing* was made remotely. One of the empowering skills that Radha speaks about picking up during the making of the album, was learning how to record vocals on her own, without the aid of a recording engineer and sending the tracks over to artistes in the US, as well as their mixing and mastering engineer Yura Romaniv out in Lviv, Ukraine. "Since his country is at war, it was difficult to seize moments of quiet. But working in bits and pieces, from 'safe' places, he completed the job."

Learning vocal recording techniques, Radha is understandably "thrilled" to be able to put her skills to use. "I don't think I'll be able to handover this part of my music to an engineer again," she says, adding she learned this without any tutorials (Radha detests YouTube guides of all sorts) and says technology came to her rescue as a composer and recordist.

The album also continues to showcase her penchant for vocalese, the style where singers interpret instrumental jazz songs, adding scat vocals and often, their own lyrics. An instance of that on *As I Sing* is with 'Daahoud,' a song composed by trumpeting legend Clifford Brown. Everything from 'Autumn Leaves' to 'Just Friends' and 'Moon Ray' make it to the album, delivered through Radha's lens and a little bit of interpretation. *As I Sing* is one for diehard jazz fans and the veteran artiste pays homage to the greats.

Over time, Thomas says that jazz has become more of an exclusive art form in India. She wonders out loud if anyone would listen to the vocal jazz style that she has championed, but does not necessarily lose hope. She plans to team up again with pianist and producer Aman Mahajan for another album, a follow-up to *Bangalore Blues* from 2020.

## INBRIEF

### Chiranjeevi donates ₹5 crore to JSP ahead of LS election

Actor K. Chiranjeevi donated ₹5 crore to the Jana Sena Party (JSP). He handed over a cheque to his brother and JSP president Pawan Kalyan on the sidelines of the shooting of *Viswambhara* in Hyderabad on Monday. Mr. Kalyan's elder brother K. Nagababu was present.

## From Page One

### SC stays board exams for Classes 5, 8, 9, 11

The top court observed that the proposed board examinations were *prima facie* in the teeth of Sections 2(f), 16 and 30 of the Right to Education Act, which prohibited the exposure of children to the rigours of board examinations till they finish elementary education.

The court is hearing petitions filed by the Registered Unaided Private Schools Management Association and the Organisation for Unaided Recognised Schools challenging the validity of the State notifications insisting on board examinations.

The petitioners, represented by advocates K.V. Dhananjay, A. Velan, Sudharsan Suresh, Anirudh Kulkarni, Sainath D.M., Ananya Krishna and Dheeraj S.J., had moved the Supreme Court.

The top court issued notice to the State of Karnataka and listed the case on April 23.

The Supreme Court had earlier, on March 12, intervened against the conduct of board examinations for these classes in Karnataka.

Putting on hold an interim order of a Division Bench of the Karnataka High Court permitting the State to hold the board examinations, the Supreme Court had then observed that the High Court Division Bench ought not to have allowed the conduct of board examination through an interim order. That too, after two Single Benches of the same High Court had already quashed similar notifications or circulars. The petitioners had contended that the State, by insisting on exposing younger children to the board, was risking the repeat of the tragedies of March 2023.

"Karnataka, unfortunately, witnessed a few child suicide cases in March 2023. There was nothing that helpless parents could do. The children were taking the board exams that the government had just introduced for children studying in classes 5 and 8," the petitioners had submitted.

# KWDT-II sets deadline for A.P. to file statement in water row

Telangana alleges that the neighbouring State is delaying proceedings in tribunal owing to its pending Supreme Court case; Andhra Pradesh had cited model code of conduct being in force

**B. Chandrashekhar**
HYDERABAD

A view of Srisailam Project, a joint facility for the two Telugu States.

The Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal (KWDT-II) headed by Justice Brijesh Kumar has turned down the plea of Andhra Pradesh seeking time till June-end for filing its statement of case (SoC) in the matter of reference made by the Centre on October 6 last year for adjudication of water shares of Telangana and A.P. out of the en bloc allotment made to erstwhile combined A.P., but has given time till April 29.

The tribunal has asked A.P. to file its SoC on or before April 29 and replies by the two sides within two week from that date even as it posted the next hearing from May 15 to 17. The tribunal observed that A.P. sought extension of time in the last application too but did not file SoC even after six weeks' time granted initially and later, an extension of two weeks.

After hearing the arguments put forward by senior counsels C.S. Vaidyanathan and Jaideep Gupta representing Telangana and A.P., respectively, in New Delhi on Monday, the tribunal – comprising its chairman Brijesh Kumar and members Ram Mohan Reddy and S. Talapatra – stated in its order on Monday that the two States did not file their SoC and replies in eight weeks and the last extension of time was given till March 20.

On March 20, Telangana had filed its SoC but A.P. moved an interim application on April 4 seeking time till June-end citing the model code of conduct. However, Telangana filed a counter to A.P.'s application the next day. On Monday, the A.P. side argued that they could not file the SoC with the model code of conduct being in force from April 16. They were seeking time till June-end as the LS election results would be declared by that time. Opposing A.P.'s plea, Telangana pointed out that it was only a delaying tactic and they were aware of the impending polls by late December or early January.

# A.P. tribal woman gives birth on road

**The Hindu Bureau**
VISAKHAPATNAM

A 28-year-old woman from a tribal hamlet in Andhra Pradesh delivered a baby by the wayside in the early hours of Monday.

Killo Vasantha, hailing from a tribal community in Cheedivalasa village of Alluri Sitharamaraju district, developed labour pains around 4 a.m., and her family members dialled 108 for emergency ambulance. Though the ambulance arrived at the nearest point, about one km away from the village, it could not reach the village as there was no motorable road.

Her husband Bhaskara Rao and some women of the village then carried her along the kutcha pathway from the village.

But before they could reach the ambulance, she delivered a baby girl by the wayside.

She suffered heavy bleeding and the ambulance staff came on foot to give her medical care. They also helped the villagers in moving the woman to the ambulance. She was later shifted to the Health Centre at Hukumpeta.

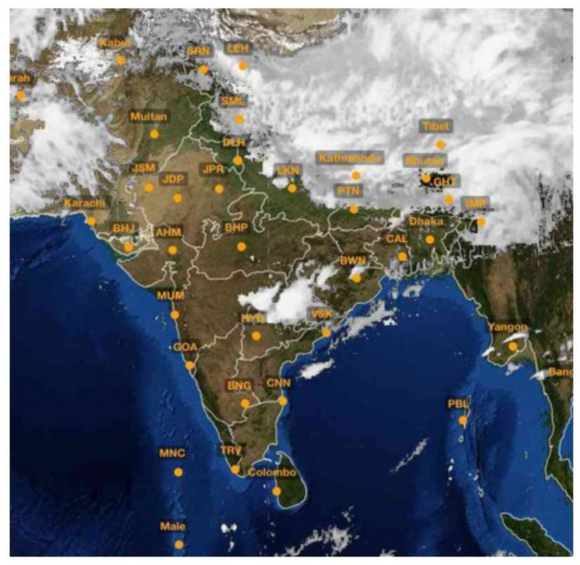
**'Funds siphoned off'**

CPI(M) district secretariat member K. Govinda Rao alleged that roads were not laid in the tribal hamlets although funds to the tune of crores of rupees were being drawn under various heads like the MGNREGS, and siphoned off by unscrupulous contractors over the years. Politicians come before every general election and promise to lay roads, but fail to implement them, he said.

Deputy Sarpanch Killo Nageswara Rao and the villagers say a road was sanctioned in 2017 under the MGNREGS. Earthmovers were brought in and work started, but was stopped mid way. Though funds were sanctioned, the work did not restart. The villagers demanded immediate completion of the road to ensure that pregnant women and sick persons get timely medicare.

## WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday




TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

**Forecast for Tuesday:** Heavy rainfall/snowfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Kerala and Mahe

| CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN | CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agartala | 0.4 | 31.8 | 22.7 | Kozhikode | — | 37.6 | 29.0 |
| Ahmedabad | — | 40.0 | 25.5 | Kurnool | — | 42.5 | 29.2 |
| Aizawl | — | 32.7 | 15.0 | Lucknow | — | 38.0 | 19.0 |
| Allahabad | — | 40.7 | 21.0 | Madurai | — | 39.6 | 26.1 |
| Bengaluru | — | 37.0 | 24.0 | Mangaluru | — | 35.1 | 26.1 |
| Bhopal | — | 35.8 | 22.0 | Mumbai | — | 33.3 | 23.3 |
| Bhubaneswar | — | 34.3 | 22.2 | Mysuru | — | 37.0 | 21.0 |
| Chandigarh | — | 34.9 | 17.2 | New Delhi | — | 37.1 | 17.4 |
| Chennai | — | 35.3 | 28.0 | Patna | — | 38.1 | 23.1 |
| Coimbatore | — | 38.9 | 25.7 | Port Blair | — | 33.2 | 26.1 |
| Dehradun | — | 33.8 | 16.0 | Puducherry | — | 35.6 | 27.4 |
| Gangtok | — | 21.4 | 14.0 | Pune | — | 38.9 | 21.6 |
| Goa | — | 34.2 | 24.9 | Raipur | 0.4 | 29.5 | 20.5 |
| Guwahati | — | 33.4 | 22.6 | Ranchi | 0.8 | 27.2 | 20.0 |
| Hubballi | — | 39.0 | 23.0 | Shillong | — | 25.2 | 15.5 |
| Hyderabad | — | 36.7 | 27.3 | Shimla | — | 25.6 | 11.0 |
| Imphal | 7 | 31.3 | 14.1 | Srinagar | — | 23.7 | 5.8 |
| Jaipur | — | 37.0 | 22.9 | Thiruvananthapuram | — | 35.9 | 27.2 |
| Kochi | — | 34.2 | 29.2 | Tiruchi | — | 40.7 | 25.6 |
| Kohima | — | 24.2 | 14.4 | Vijayawada | — | 36.4 | 27.4 |
| Kolkata | 0.5 | 33.2 | 25.4 | Visakhapatnam | — | 34.8 | 28.4 |

*(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)*

**Pollutants in the air you are breathing**

| CITIES | $SO_2$ | $NO_2$ | CO | PM2.5 | PM10 | CODE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ahmedabad | —.. | .46 | .56 | 183... | 146... | |
| Bengaluru | .10 | .16 | .23 | 107... | 120... | |
| Chennai | 9... | 8... | .87 | 58..... | 59..... | |
| Delhi | .57 | .50 | .26 | 308... | 295... | |
| Hyderabad | 5... | .31 | .47 | 91..... | 129..... | |
| Kolkata | .19 | .38 | .21 | 64..... | 85..... | |
| Lucknow | 8... | .58 | .40 | 73..... | 121..... | |
| Mumbai | —.. | 138 | .39 | 44..... | 74..... | |
| Pune | .76 | .91 | 116 | 22..... | 24..... | |
| Visakhapatnam | .14 | .21 | .19 | 69..... | 96..... | |

**Yesterday**

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byrnihat, Assam recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 327 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh recorded a healthy AQI score of 30

**Air Quality Code:** Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

**$SO_2$:** Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

**$NO_2$:** Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

**CO:** Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

**PM2.5 & PM10:** Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

### BRS leader's son arrested in Hyderabad accident case

**Naveen Kumar**
HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad police have arrested Raheel Aamir, son of BRS leader and former Bodhan MLA, Shakeel Aamir. He was remanded in 14-day judicial custody by a local court on Monday, said the officials.

"As per the court orders, he surrendered himself in the police station here on Sunday night. We produced him in the court and he was sent to 14 days of judicial remand," said Inspector of Panjagutta police Bandari Shobhan. He refuted reports that Mr. Raheel was nabbed from the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport.

**Escaped from custody**

Mr. Raheel has been absconding after he escaped from police custody following his involvement in an accident in the early hours of December 24, 2023. The police said he was allegedly drunk when he rammed a luxury car into the police barricade placed on the road opposite Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Praja Bhavan, Begumpet.

Meanwhile, inspector Durga Rao was placed under suspension over an attempt to frame Mr. Raheel's driver in the case. After Mr. Rao 'absconded' on January 29, city police officials arrested him from the Guntakal Railway Station in Andhra Pradesh on February 5. However, the court granted conditional bail to Mr. Rao and directed him to cooperate with the investigation.

Later, the City Police Commissioner issued orders transferring 85 staffers of the Panjagutta Police Station.

***Folksy charm***

**In demand:** Folk artists are being used by various parties for their election campaigns in Andhra Pradesh. A few such performers were also part of the rally of Telugu Desam Party's chief N. Chandrababu Naidu at Vuyyuru in Krishna district late on Sunday. G.N. RAO

### PM Modi roadshow in Chennai today

**The Hindu Bureau**
CHENNAI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in a roadshow, organised to canvass votes for Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP's) candidates, in Chennai on Tuesday evening.

The Greater Chennai Police have made elaborate security arrangements in view of the high-profile visit and campaign.

Police said the Prime Minister will arrvie by a special aircraft from Maharashtra at 6.05 p.m. at the Chennai Airport. From there, he will travel by road to T. Nagar.

His roadshow will begin at 6.30 p.m. from Panagal Park, which was once a prominent place for public meetings.

On crossing the busiest road - Theayagaraya Road (Pondy Bazaar) - the roadshow is expected to conclude around 7.35 p.m. After wrapping up the campaign, the Prime Minister's convoy will reach Raj Bhavan, where he will be staying for the night.

Many political leaders, party people and members of the public are expected to witness the roadshow.

The Greater Chennai Traffic Police said movement of vehicles on Theayagaraya Road is strictly prohibited from 3 p.m. and it has been declared a sterile zone.

### Drought in Telangana due to BRS govt., says Congress

**The Hindu Bureau**
HYDERABAD

Congress leader Sama Rammohan Reddy objected to the BRS party leaders' criticism of the government on the drought-like situation in Telangana and said it was BRS-induced.

At a press conference here, he said mismanagement of water during monsoon and even later has led to this situation.

Mr. Reddy said the BRS should take responsibility for the collapse of Kaleshwaram project due to the cracks in the Medigadda barrage and apologise to the people of Telangana.

### BJP won't even touch double digit in south India: Shivakumar

**The Hindu Bureau**
KOCHI

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has said that the BJP may not even cross the double-digit mark in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections from south India.

"In south India, there will be a big change. The BJP may not even cross double digits in South India," he told mediapersons in Ernakulam district on Monday after addressing Congress party workers and leaders at the Central election committee office of Benny Behanan, the United Democratic Front (UDF) candidate in Chalakudy constituency.

He exuded confidence that the INDIA bloc will come to power in the Centre. "In Kerala, we are expecting 100% [victory]. The UDF will win all 20 seats," he said.

Stating that this Lok Sabha election would be "a game-changer" for the country, Mr. Shivakumar said he could not see any "Modi wave".

"In north India also, I am getting reports that they [BJP] are not going to get more than 200 seats. Hence they are using the machinery, including Income Tax department, ED and the CBI to corner party cadres and Opposition leaders. Still, I believe this is the beginning of their end [BJP-led NDA government]," he said.

### 194 candidates in the fray from 20 LS seats in Kerala

**The Hindu Bureau**
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

In all, 194 candidates, 169 men and 25 women, are in the fray for the April 26 Lok Sabha election in Kerala. There are 20 constituencies in the State.

In 2019, 227 candidates, which included 23 women, had contested the Lok Sabha polls. The list of candidates was finalised on Monday after the deadline for withdrawal of nominations ended at 3 p.m.

Across the State, 10 candidates withdrew their nominations before the deadline ended, Chief Electoral Officer (Kerala) Sanjay Kaul said. With 14 candidates, Kottayam tops the list of constituencies in the number of candidates. Alathur has the lowest with five candidates. Kozhikode has 13 candidates, while Kannur and Kollam have 12 each. The Vadakara constituency has the highest number of women candidates.

**Selfie point:** Congress leader Shashi Tharoor poses for a photo during his campaign in Thiruvananthapuram. S. MAHINSHA

Candidates withdrew their nominations in Thiruvananthapuram (1), Mavelikara (1), Idukki (1), Chalakudy (1), Thrissur (1), Palakkad (1), Malappuram (2), Wayanad (1), and Vadakara (1).

In all, 290 candidates had filed nomination papers . Election officials had rejected the papers filed by 86 candidates, whittling the number down to 204 after a scrutiny on April 5.

### CPI(M) attacks govt. over freezing of bank account before polls

**The Hindu Bureau**
KOCHI

The freezing of the bank account of the CPI(M) Thrissur district committee by the Income Tax department was part of "the undemocratic measures" of the BJP government to stifle the Opposition parties, according to party's State secretary M.V. Govindan.

Mr. Govindan told mediapersons here on Monday that the BJP candidate in Thrissur, Suresh Gopi, will not win despite the party adopting such coercive measures. "Even if Prime Minister Narendra Modi camps in Thrissur to canvass, the BJP candidate will not win," he said.

Mr. Govindan said the Congress was adopting "double standards" regarding the freezing of bank accounts of political parties. "While the party opposed the freezing of its bank account by the Income Tax department, it welcomed similar action against the CPI(M)," he said.

"The CPI(M) has been maintaining the bank account in Thrissur for over 30 years. The party handles its finances country-wide using one PAN card. The financial transactions of all the 14 district committees and the State committee of the party are also done using the PAN card. The party will legally challenge the decision," he said.

## Promise or perish

### Parties need to offer more than welfare schemes in their manifesto

Political parties offer voters a preview of their vision in manifestos ahead of an election. Personality-driven politics and rapid changes in communication modes have reduced the import of manifestos, but still they offer a structured documentation of a political party's approach to governance and state policy. The Congress manifesto for 2024, titled Nyay Patra (Document for Justice), is a pitch for the party's political revival in the face of the expansive ideological project of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The Congress has offered 25 guarantees under categories such as justice for youth, women, farmers, workers and for equity. The focus, according to the party, is social justice, economy and the primacy of constitutional institutions, and a promise to "reverse the damage," allegedly done by the Narendra Modi-led National Democratic Alliance government. The most significant political promise is to remove the 50% cap on reservation for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes (OBC) and conduct a nation-wide caste census. The Congress is wading into unfamiliar waters on this count, as it has for the longest time lived in denial of caste as a determinant of politics, even as the BJP has expanded its base by addressing it. A new law to ensure that "'bail is the rule, jail is the exception' in all criminal laws", a review of all laws that interfere with the right to privacy and individual's choice of food, dress or marriage, a self-regulation regime for the media and a law to preserve the freedom of the Internet have been promised.

An unconditional cash transfer of ₹1 lakh a year to every poor family under the Mahalakshmi scheme, legal right to the minimum support price (MSP), and the right to health with cashless insurance of up to ₹25 lakh under a universal health scheme are among the raft of welfare schemes that the Congress is offering to voters. Further, the party promises the right to apprenticeship with an annual stipend of ₹1 lakh, the abolition of application fees for government examination and government posts, one-time writing off of all educational loans including unpaid interest and a lot more. Whether all this adds up to a new vision that stands out in comparison with that of the BJP, and has credibility against the backdrop of the Congress's own track record in governance are questions that remain. Welfare schemes have ceased to be differentiators between political parties as all of them offer a mix of these. The Congress should have shown more imagination than was evident in its manifesto.

## Perverse intent

### The CAA suffers from narrow definition of persecution and arbitrariness

Offering citizenship to migrants who have fled their countries of origin because of persecution and have stayed a sufficient time in their adopted country, is a humane endeavour by any nation-state and should be generally welcomed. But by limiting this measure only to migrants from an arbitrary group of neighbouring nations and to narrow the definition only to "religious persecution", and to further constrict this to not include Muslims, atheists, and agnostics among others, would suggest that the reasoning to provide this citizenship has less to do with humanitarianism and more to do with a warped and perverse understanding of Indian citizenship. By its very intent, the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, whose rules were notified by the Ministry of Home Affairs last month, over four years since the Act was passed in Parliament, goes against the ethos of the Indian Constitution. It is a short-sighted piece of legislation in its understanding that only religious persecution merits a reason for providing asylum and citizenship. It is fairly evident that persecution can be due to other reasons as well, such as linguistic discrimination in the case of Sri Lanka in recent years, and erstwhile East Pakistan from which Bangladesh was born. Besides, as the case of the Rohingya from Myanmar shows, Muslims have also faced the severest form of discrimination in recent years, with thousands killed, more than a million of them rendered stateless and lakhs fleeing to other countries including India due to deliberate genocidal policies implemented by the ruling regime in the country. Even in Muslim-majority countries and those professing Islam as the state religion, such as Pakistan, minority Islamic sects such as the Ahmadiyyas have been subject to oppression and persecution.

The argument by petitioners against the CAA in the Supreme Court of India that the rules of the Act do not require foreign applicants to effectively renounce citizenship of their native countries, and that this allows for the possibility of dual citizenship which is directly violative of the Citizenship Act is also fair even if it is only a procedural one. While India is not party to the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, they have provisions that require signatories to provide refugee status to those who are subjects of different forms of persecution beyond just due to their religion. Signatories must also apply these provisions "without discrimination as to race, religion or country of origin" and it is clear that the CAA would run afoul of them if India were a signatory. The Court must declare the CAA as unconstitutional and revoke its implementation because of its arbitrary and selective norms for providing citizenship to migrants.

# *Indian aviation, a case of air safety at a discount*

The oft-repeated statements by the Union Minister for Civil Aviation, Jyotiraditya Scindia, and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), that, first, 'safety is paramount' and, second, 'India has one of the fastest growing aviation sectors', are ones that are at complete variance with each other when there are two very serious safety issues staring at aviation in India.

In June 2023, the Minister had written to the Kerala government implying that the safety of passengers was being gravely compromised due to the non-provision of the Runway End Safety Area at Kozhikode's Karipur airport. The provision of this safety feature was explicitly recommended by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) after its investigation and recommendations following an air crash at the airport on August 7, 2020. The Minister said that the Ministry would be "left with no choice but to proceed with the necessary action of curtailing the runway length for safe aircraft operations at Calicut airport from 01.08.2023 unless the land is handed over to the AAI [Airports Authority of India] immediately".

We are now in April 2024 and just a couple of weeks and months away from the southwest monsoon, and, later, the northeast monsoon. Yet, no land has been made available and flights continue at the airport without restrictions.

In January 2024, Mr. Scindia, in a post on X, had said: "... After in-depth analysis of pilot rosters, fatigue-related reports and direct feedback from pilots, we have introduced revised "FDTL Regulations" [Flight Duty Time Limitations] that include, increased rest periods, redefining night duty, and regular fatigue reports to be shared by airlines." The deadline for their implementation was June 1, 2024. But airline owners in India went rushing to the Ministry and the DGCA stating that they would need additional crew to meet these requirements and hence flights would need to be curtailed. In March 2024, the DGCA deferred the "deadline" of June 1 indefinitely.

All this raises the question. Is safety paramount for the Minister and the DGCA? Or are the commercial requirements of airlines taking priority over passenger safety? Going by the actions so far, air passengers should be aware that they are flying 'purely on a horoscope'. The authorities and the airlines are clueless on safety standards.

**Captain A. (Mohan) Ranganathan**

is a former airline instructor pilot and aviation safety adviser. He is also a former member of the Civil Aviation Safety Advisory Council (CASAC), India

**Systems overseas**

Why has the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) introduced the Fatigue Risk Management System (FRMS) as a mandatory requirement? It is with good reason. The study of various accidents and serious incidents due to fatigue, has shown sleep deprivation and impaired reaction times to be identified as a major cause. Countries such as Japan, Singapore and the United Kingdom lay a lot of stress on fatigue management and also rest periods for flight crew. They follow a system where pilots get two days off every week to reset their body clock and recover from cumulative fatigue. For long haul flights, they are provided augmented rest on return to their home base.

> With airline managements in India appearing to prioritise commercial needs over passenger safety, the Civil Aviation Ministry and the regulator need to act

The common refrain one hears is that pilots are overpaid for the work they do, when even senior executives in airlines earn less! In 1985 when I was part of the Central Executive of the Indian Commercial Pilots Association, this was the argument put forth by the Director of Personnel and Director Finance of the airline, that is Indian Airlines (IA), to deny pilots an increase in emoluments. I highlighted the huge difference between the working conditions of pilots and ground personnel. Pilots got just 30 days of annual leave and a day off every week due to FDTL limits. Contrast this with ground personnel who got weekends off, which is 104 days, all public holidays and their annual leave. I told the IA management that pilots would forego the increase and would also work the same number of days that ground personnel did in office.

People fail to understand that a pilot is a human being and not a machine. He or she needs time with their family too. Two days off in a week is a must to be with family.

**The human factor is distant**

Airline rosters never take the human factor in account. The limits laid down by the DGCA do not mean that a good airline system cannot utilise pilots to a lesser number of flight time and duty hours. When airlines place orders for aircraft, airline owners go by the DGCA Civil Aviation Requirements (C.A.R.) for scheduled transport which lays down the minimum crew requirement. If it is compared with the FDTL C.A.R., the requirement of crew would be more than double, depending on the type of operations. So, does the DGCA monitor crew numbers based on the requirements in the FDTL C.A.R.? The answer is no. After all, it would affect the news headline grabbing effect of a large aircraft order and downplay the hype around the country being the "fastest growing" in aviation.

Financial stress can have a very adverse result on a pilot. The United States National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) report on a Silkair crash on December 19, 1997, which claimed 104 lives, identified the issue of the captain's gambling debts and pilot suicide. In the Egyptair crash on October 31, 1999, too, there were similar findings.

I refer to the two accidents as in addition to pilot fatigue, the authorities in India do not pay heed to the dangers of financial stress. It is shocking to have reports that the copilots of Vistara, the only flourishing airline under the Tatas were given an ultimatum to 'sign their new pay structure contract by the end of the day or else lose their command position' when Vistara is eventually merged with Air India. It would have meant a drop in income by almost 50% for a young pilot who has invested over a crore of rupees to obtain his licence to fly and who is up to the neck paying equated monthly instalments towards the loan. Does Vistara's management consider it safe to subject a young mind to such thoughtless pressure? Will the flight be safe when the pilot's mind is worrying about his loan? The Tatas are known to care for the welfare of their employees. It is surprising, therefore, that when it is an issue that concerns pilots, the issue takes a back seat.

Why are airlines looking at copilots as only an occupant on the flight deck? They are the airline's future captains and are a long-term investment in an airline's growth. The human resource departments of airlines have failed. Airlines are bound to lose even their captains who will move to an airline that operates with human values. Airline owners may call this 'illegal poaching' but in a country where lawmakers switch sides for handouts, blaming pilots is unfair. After all, these airline-friendly rules and recommendations made by DGCA cannot be the result of a mere "over the table" approach. The electoral bond issue is a tale that has exposed many, and aviation is not an exception to this.

**Some solutions**

To meet pilot shortage, there is an immediate solution. India should adopt the ICAO Annex 1 Standard which allows a member state to recognise another ICAO licence and issue an Indian licence on the basis of only an Air Law examination and a Class I medical. There will be hundreds of qualified and experienced Indian captains working abroad who will return to India if the hurdles that the corrupt system uses to prevent them from returning are demolished.

The DGCA, in collusion with airline management pilots, has a rule that makes it mandatory for an instructor or an examiner to be an active pilot. However, they will accept a retired pilot working in a training centre abroad to carry out the mandatory checks on Indian pilots. Retired pilots can be utilised for simulator training. Such a step will also release a large number of trained pilots for active flying

Hanging on to rules that were drafted in 1937 and a system that has large-scale corruption will never result in Indian aviation shining. As for the Tatas, if they want to make their merger of four airlines result in a trouble-free world class airline system, they need to introspect deeply over the importance of the human factor in aviation. Finding excuses such as 'Air Traffic Control delays' for large-scale flight disruption – as Vistara cited– will cut no ice. It is transparency and building brand loyalty that will help them regain their past glory in aviation.

# *Marching ahead with technology absorption*

The Indian Army is observing the year 2024 as the 'Year of Technology Absorption'. This theme underscores the Army's steadfast focus on embracing technology to transform itself so as to keep ahead of adversaries in the context of the evolving character of warfare. The means and end in this regard are visualised under the umbrella of Atmanirbharta.

The absorption will be mainly in terms of disruptive technology (DT) comprising artificial intelligence, autonomous weapon systems such as drones, sensors, robotics, space technology, and hypersonic weapon systems. Several nations, led by the United States and China, have remarkable accomplishments in the field of DTs. The strategic competition and engagements in the future are going to be inevitably decided by the edge a nation possesses in absorbing these technologies.

In military parlance, absorption implies the acquisition, adaptation and integration of technologies into existing structures called legacy systems. These cover various nuances that are usually not apparent to the uninitiated. In addition, a few misnomers prevail *vis-à-vis* the absorption of DTs. Certain facets are enumerated below for a nuanced understanding of the issue.

To begin with, time-tested weapon platforms and tactics are here to stay, even with the induction of DTs. It is more about discovering a practical use of the new discoveries rather than about the discovery *per se*. As said, integration as part of absorption wherein the new DTs complement existing platforms is crucial. Discarding the prevailing systems to be substituted by the new will not necessarily be the way ahead.

**Complimenting legacy systems**

Although the new technologies could significantly alter the character of future wars we must still refrain from being lulled into complacency because of the mere acquisition of technology.

**Colonel Shashank Ranjan (retired)**

is an Infantry Officer having served in the Indian Army for almost 33 years. He teaches at the O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonepat, Haryana

> The Indian military is moving in the right direction, but the challenge lies in sustaining technology absorption with a nuanced understanding of the requirements

The strategies that military organisations use to employ technologies will be critical in understanding their effects on the battlefield.

Analysts who see a military revolution in technology, usually argue that new technologies have made the modern battlefield more lethal. However, it is brought out that 'realised lethality', as opposed to the visualised 'potential lethality' in recent wars such as Russia- Ukraine and Armenia-Azerbaijan (Nagorno-Karabakh), is not very much different from that seen in wars of an earlier era. This corroborates the fact that technological advances will not be the sole determinative in war and are only a part of what shapes outcomes.

Also, as we have seen in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, the initial benefits that Ukraine could muster no longer gained traction as the war progressed. One of the reasons behind 'advantage Russia' on the battlefield now is in the Russian army employing traditional methodologies to fight the war. Aspects such as consolidating traditional defence lines and a stronger military industrial base are what matter finally. The Indian military by focusing on DTs and indigenous upgrades in defence manufacture in tandem, is certainly striking the way ahead.

**Adapting to new conditions is crucial**

Technical countermeasures in wars quickly limit the performance of new technology-enabled weapons employed by an adversary. The most important adaptations are often not technological but operational and tactical, i.e., how a military fights at various levels. They involve changes in the way armies use the tools at their disposal. Over a century ago, armies developed tactics that reduced their exposure to enemy fire by exploiting dispersion, cover and concealment. Such practices hold even more importance in the current era.

In present battle conditions, weapon platforms such as tanks must adapt to become more survivable. This will require a change in tactics and a greater integration of different types of capabilities. With a plethora of sensors on the battlefield, it has become almost impossible to hide. Tanks, for example, will have to operate widely dispersed, accompanied by electronic warfare units to detect and jam aerial platforms of the enemy. Similarly, the infantry on the battlefield, while operating dispersed will need an excellent standard of junior leadership to lead men in compartmentalised and high-tech battles.

**Planning ahead**

Rather than discarding conventional platforms in favour of purely digital solutions, the technology and its attributes need to be at the centre of planning for future plans. This will be a process that starts with the acknowledgement of vulnerabilities and sensitivities and the gap between them.

An understanding of the latest technologies, their potential, and the context in which they can be utilised are essential. The absorption will have to visibly manifest itself at the unit levels, as against being controlled only at the higher levels. This democratisation in employing technology at cutting-edge levels is an imperative to usher in true transformation.

Technology absorption will also necessarily include several macro level aspects such as organisational restructuring, the management of human resources and cultivating specialists not merely at the higher levels but also decentralised at execution levels, civil military fusion, having a structure and policies to ensure data integrity, and having a procurement policy that is applicable to DTs.

The Indian military is moving in the desired direction but the challenge will be to sustain this with a nuanced understanding of the requirements as applicable. In this context, there are many lessons from recent and ongoing wars, and should not be lost sight of.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Exports, underpriced**

India is an agrarian nation. But it is indeed a pity that a majority of its farmers live in penury. The reason, of course, is not far to seek. They are affected by the volatility of domestic markets and the pressure of selling their produce to moneylenders, who would have given them loans at usurious rates of interest. The government alone can assure them remunerative prices and help them lead a decent life. It is disheartening that the government is selling onions to the UAE at ₹120 a kg, but pays farmers a pittance (Page 1, "Traders rue underpriced onion exports to the UAE", April 8). Of what use is 'onion diplomacy' if farmers only get tears and a raw deal?

**S. Ramakrishnasayee,**
Chennai

**Money power, fair elections**

The seizure of ₹3.98 crore from three people in Chennai who are associated with a political candidate from the BJP (Page 1, April 8) is only the " tip of the iceberg" considering the vast amount collected by this national party in the form of electoral bonds. The Election Commission of India (ECI) should conduct an unbiased inquiry. The distribution of cash is rampant and common during elections. Fair elections can be held only if the ECI is impartial and acts without fear.

**M.C. Vijay Shankar,**
Chennai

**Corrections & Clarifications**

In the story titled "States offer thousands of hectares of 'degraded' forest land for green credits" (April 7, 2024, some editions) the reference to International Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) should be corrected to Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education.

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Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

# A new methodology with some issues

The National Sample Survey (NSS) Office released the key results of the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2022-23 in late February. These primarily include all-India estimates of the average household monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE) for rural and urban areas, its distribution by broad item groups for food and non-food categories, the variation in the average MPCE of households with different standards of living (by appropriately grouping them into 12 'fractile classes' of MPCE), and the trend in the composition of MPCE since the 1999-2000 survey (55th round of the NSS). So far as the State-level estimates are concerned, the factsheet gives only estimates of average MPCE – total of food and non-food items – for each State and Union Territory (UT) for rural and urban areas.

As the earlier available results pertain to 2011-12, the latest results have bridged the data vacuum of more than a decade on an important subject that also goes into the compilation of poverty estimates. While the methodology for the HCES is more refined now, there are still challenges that need to be addressed. This will ensure that apart from producing much firmer estimates of the average MPCE, the new series has an in-built mechanism to maintain comparability of the current estimates with those of the earlier 'quinquennial series' available from 1972-73 to 2011-12.

**G.C. Manna**

is Professor at the Institute for Human Development (IHD), New Delhi, and a senior adviser at the National Council of Applied Economic Reserach. He was earlier the Director General of the Central Statistics office and the National Sample Survey Office and a member of the National Statistical Commission

While the methodology for the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey is more refined now, there are still challenges that need to be addressed

**Changes and implications**

One change in the new HCES is the updated item coverage, which has been done keeping in view the latest consumption behaviour.

Another significant change is the splitting of the single questionnaire into three parts covering food items, consumables and services items, and durable goods. The three questionnaires have been used at random in a selected household during three separate monthly visits contrary to the past when the team would visit a household just once. Using the single questionnaire during one visit often resulted in long interviews. As a result, respondents were fatigued and there was a possibility of under-reporting consumption expenditure, particularly in respect of items like durable goods which were placed towards the end of the questionnaire. While the latest change will help us derive more reliable estimates of the average MPCE, we are also now unable to compare the current estimates of the average MPCE, and the share of poor that may be derived from it based on the survey data, with the estimates of the past, given the likelihood of under-reporting of household consumption expenditure in the previous surveys.

A third change is in the method of stratification of villages and urban blocks for the purpose of sampling. While in HCES 2011-12, every district was considered as a basic stratum for rural and urban areas, the new HCES considers a State/UT as the basic stratum. While every district with some minimum sample allocation got represented in both the rural and urban samples of the 2011-12 survey, the new HCES does not ensure the same. Such a change does not affect the generation of State-wise estimates.

There is also a change in stratification of households. All the households of a selected village/urban block are classified into three groups depending on a criterion. The criterion in rural areas is possession of land and in urban areas it is possession of four-wheeler cars for non-commercial use on the date of the survey. The total sample of 18 households with proportional representation from the three groups have been selected. Given that the proportion of urban households possessing four-wheelers is as low as 6% in States like Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal as per the National Family Health Survey-5 (2019-21), adequate number of rich households in the sample may not get ensured in such States as intended. It is worthwhile to note that the said stratification in the HCES 2011-12 was based on the average MPCE of the households with the top 10%, middle 60% and bottom 30% forming the three strata, and a sample of two, four, and two households, respectively, was allotted to these strata.

**Methodological issues**

The splitting of the questionnaire and visiting a sample household thrice now have led to non-comparability of the current estimates with those of the past, although the current estimates appear to be much firmer ones. One way to address this issue is to replicate the traditional approach of 'one schedule with a one-time visit to a household' in an independent random sample of households to be drawn from the same villages and urban blocks of at least one of the panels for which the fieldwork is yet to commence. In this context, it is important to note that the sample in the new HCES for a year is in the form of 10 panels, each comprising consecutive three months, with an equal number of sample villages/urban blocks allotted to each panel. This add-on module will facilitate generation of two independent estimates of the average MPCE and other associated correlates based on the current approach vis-à-vis the earlier one. This information will be useful to study the extent of divergence between the two alternative estimates of MPCE and build a comparable series.

Further, to ensure adequate representation of rich households, it will be worthwhile to develop a frame of such households based on administrative data and a random sample of households drawn from this frame for enquiry on consumption expenditure of rich households through a dedicated survey. This database in conjunction with those from the HCES will be useful to derive an improved distribution of households by their average MPCE.

# Testing the waters in Ramanathapuram

Despite its campaigns in the district, the BJP has chosen not to contest the polls

STATE OF PLAY

**T. Ramakrishnan**
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The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has revived the row over Katchatheevu, an uninhabited, barren islet about 14 nautical miles off Rameswaram in Ramanathapuram district of Tamil Nadu. An agreement between India and Sri Lanka in June 1974 recognised Katchatheevu in the Palk Strait as a part of Sri Lanka.

On March 31, reacting to the reply to a Right to Information query filed by the BJP State president, K. Annamalai, Prime Minister Narendra Modi posted on X that "new facts" showed how the Congress "callously gave away" the islet. The next day, he accused the Congress's ally, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), of having done "nothing" to safeguard the interests of Tamil Nadu. Mr. Annamalai's contention is that M. Karunanidhi, who was Tamil Nadu Chief Minister in the early 1970s, should have prevented the Centre from signing the agreement with Sri Lanka.

Responding to this, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK president M.K. Stalin asked whether Mr. Modi had raised the issue of the "retrieval of the islet" with the Sri Lankan government even once during his tenure as Prime Minister. He said that the issue was being raked up as part of the BJP's election strategy.

In 1974, shortly after the bilateral agreement with Sri Lanka was signed, the BJP's previous avatar, the Jana Sangh, had challenged the accord through its State unit secretary, "Jana" K. Krishnamurthi, on the grounds that this had been done without the approval of Parliament and without proper amendment of the Constitution. The State unit of the BJP too has been consistently demanding "retrieval" of the islet, even though its national leadership has not made any statement to this effect, possibly because it is aware of the impact on bilateral relations with Sri Lanka.




Back in 2007, the BJP protested against the Sethusamudram Project on the ground that it would destroy the Rama Setu, officially called Adam's Bridge. The BJP had supported the call for declaring the site as a national heritage monument.

All these campaigns are part of the BJP's long-standing project to make inroads into the southern districts of Tamil Nadu in general and strike a chord with the fishing community in particular. In January 2014, BJP leader Sushma Swaraj had participated in the 'Kadal Thamarai' (sea lotus) meeting to espouse the cause of the fishing community. There was even a strong rumour for about two years that Mr. Modi would contest from the Ramanathapuram Lok Sabha constituency this time, despite the fact that the BJP has never won the seat. Some people have said that the party is trying to use the "Rama card" to strike a chord with voters. This belief got strengthened when Mr. Modi visited Rameswaram, took a dip at the 'Agnitheertham' on the eastern beach of the Ramanathaswamy temple, and witnessed special pujas, a few days before the consecration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya in January.

In terms of electoral politics, the party performed modestly in the three Lok Sabha elections it contested in 2009, 2014, and 2019, securing a vote share of 16.5%, 17.09%, and 32.13%, respectively. While in 2009, the BJP faced the electorate without the support of any major or established party, in 2014 and 2019 it put up its candidates as a constituent of a front. This time, the party has allotted the constituency to former coordinator of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), O. Panneerselvam, who hails from Periyakulam in Theni district.

In contrast to the previous Lok Sabha elections when the BJP contested only five seats including Ramanathapuram, this time it is contesting 23. Its candidates include T. Devanathan Yadav, a prominent businessman who is contesting from Sivaganga, and Tamizhaga Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam president B. John Pandian, who is contesting from Tenkasi, a reserved constituency for the Scheduled Castes. In certain sections, the BJP is being given the credit for getting a notification issued three years ago to use the common nomenclature Devendrakula Velalar to refer to seven different Scheduled Castes who predominantly live in the southern districts of the State. In this context, it is surprising that the party has chosen not to be in the fray in Ramanathapuram and leave the constituency to Mr. Panneerselvam. It begs the question of whether the BJP is unsure about the electoral utility of its campaigns in Ramanathapuram and is only stirring up a row to corner the Congress and the DMK.

# Heat affects India's aim to move from coal to renewables

While power availability determines our ability to deal with heat waves, high heat affects what sources of power are available to use

DATA POINT

**Vasudevan Mukunth & Sambavi Parthasarathy**

In what many would have hoped was a Fool's Day joke, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on April 1 that India will have more than the 'usual' number of days with heat waves in the forthcoming summer. The forecast comes against the backdrop of an impending water crisis in the south, Lok Sabha polls, and rising food inflation.

Higher heat is bad for crop yield (to different degrees depending on the crop), agricultural workers' productivity, and the availability of water. **Maps 1A** and **1B** depict the probability of maximum and minimum temperatures, respectively, the IMD expects for April-June 2024. It predicted "above-normal" temperatures for the month, with a 55%-65% probability in one half of the country and over 65% in the other half. Very few parts are likely to record normal or below normal temperatures.

Heat increases power demand in urban and industrial centres; makes the consequences of outdoor work, especially at construction sites, deadly; overwhelms health service providers by its effects on the very young and the very old; and places a premium on access to clean, cool water, indoor ventilation, and indoor bathrooms. The availability of power undergirds our ability to respond to all these effects of heat (**Chart 2**). The chart shows the average evening peak-hour demand met in March across years. In March 2024, the peak demand reached a new high of 190 GW.

A lot of this power comes from coal-fired plants. Coal is easily stored and has a high load factor, and these plants meet both peak and off-peak demands. The government is targeting 500 GW of power generation capacity from renewable energy sources by 2030 and has committed to producing 50% of its power from non-fossil-fuel energy sources by the same year. A big chunk of this addition will be in the form of solar power. But because solar output is intermittent and power storage capacity is still being established, peak demand has been met with coal. **Chart 3** shows the gross electricity generated using coal in India and coal's share in total electricity generated. The latter has remained 70-74% since at least FY16.

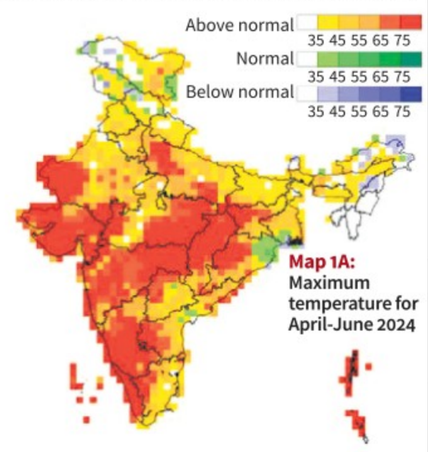
The most commercially viable forms of energy storage in India are currently battery-based storage and pumped hydro storage (PHS). PHS works like a hydroelectric power-generation facility in most respects except pumping the water from a lower to a higher elevation using off-peak power and running the turbines to load-balance the grid during peak power, among others. However, both hydroelectric and PHS facilities are undermined by water shortage – which is the case during periods of intense heat, when water demand for other needs is higher. **Chart 4** shows the gross electricity generated using renewable sources in India and the share of renewable sources in total electricity generated. The share of renewables (solar, hydro, wind, etc.) has remained 20-25% since at least FY16.

While the effects of climate change are hard to predict, especially at longer timescales and smaller spatial resolutions, concerns about the underperformance of dams India is building in the sub-Himalayas in the event of high heat and water stress persist for this reason. Thermal power isn't free of this necessity either: according to one analysis by the World Resources Institute, "India lost about 14 terawatt-hours of thermal power generation due to water shortages in 2016." All these challenges add to the multifaceted nature of extreme weather in India. Ready or not, the heat is on.

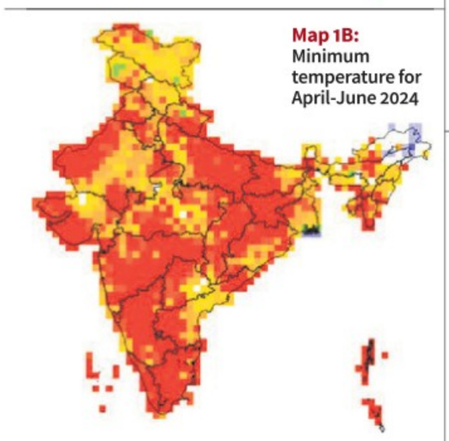
## A (load) balancing act

The data were sourced from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, GRID-INDIA and the India Meteorological Department

**Map 1:** Probability of maximum and minimum temperatures the IMD expects for April-June in 2024




**Map 1A:** Maximum temperature for April-June 2024



**Map 1B:** Minimum temperature for April-June 2024

**Chart 2:** The chart shows the average evening peak-hour demand met in March in gigawatt (GW), across years

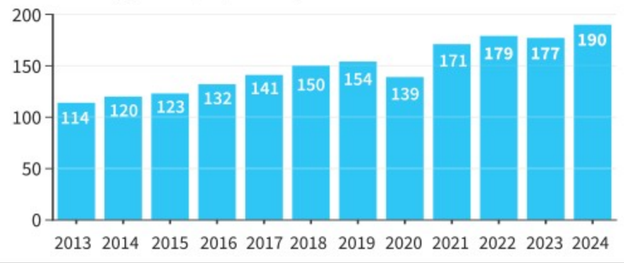



**Chart 3:** The chart shows the gross electricity generated using coal in billion KwH (left axis) and its share in total electricity generated in % (right axis)

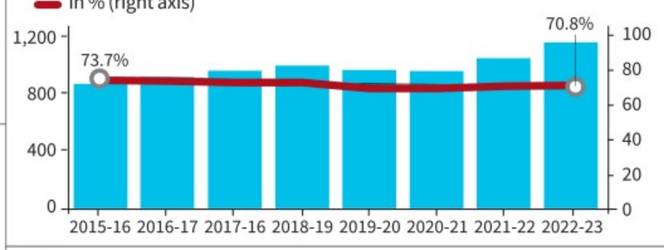



**Chart 4:** The chart shows the gross electricity generated using renewable sources in billion KwH (left axis) and its share in total electricity generated in % (right axis)

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

**FIFTY YEARS AGO** APRIL 9, 1974

## Quick disposal of suits: Aims of C.P.C. changes

New Delhi, April 6: A comprehensive bill to amend the Code of Civil Procedure was introduced in the Lok Sabha to-day by the Law Minister, Mr. R.R. Gokhale.

The bill, which seeks to simplify the procedure and expedite the disposal of civil suits and proceedings, has been brought forward by Government after considering the recommendations of the Law Commission in four reports.

The statement of objects and reasons of the 102-clause bill, says that the following basic considerations have been kept in view:

That a litigant should get a fair trial in accordance with the accepted principles of natural justice.

That every effort should be made to expedite the disposal of civil suits and proceedings, so that justice may not be delayed and

That the procedure should not be complicated and should, to the utmost extent possible, ensure a fair deal to the poorer sections of the community who do not have the means to engage a pleader to defend their cases.

Some of the important changes proposed to be made by the bill are as follows:

The Doctrine of Res Judicata is being made more effective. (The principle behind the doctrine of Res Judicata is that issues heard and finally decided between the parties to a suit should not be allowed to be re-agitated by the parties or any person claiming through them in a subsequent litigation).

The power to transfer proceedings from a High Court in a State to any other High Court, which now vests in the State Government, is now being conferred on the Supreme Court.

**A HUNDRED YEARS AGO** APRIL 9, 1924

## The S. African national bank

Bombay, April 8: The National Bank of South Africa Ltd. has given notice that it will close the Bombay branch on the 13th April. Depoisters and current account holders will be paid in full. The National Bank of India, Bombay, will take over unclaimed balances and have been instructed to honour any outstanding drafts drawn on the Bombay office of the Bank.

## From Page One

### Households' debt surged to new high

With income growth remaining weak and household net financial savings likely at its lowest at around 5% of GDP, it is not surprising that both private consumption and household investment growth have weakened considerably in 2023-24, it postulated. "Were the falling net financial savings and lower savings in 2022-23 an exception? We do not think so," the analysts concluded, estimating households' net financial savings were broadly unchanged at around 5% of GDP in the first nine months of 2023-24. For the full year gone by, these savings could very likely end up between 5% and 5.5% of GDP, they noted.

Over the first nine months of last year, households' gross financial savings rose a tad to 10.8% of GDP, from 10.5% in the corresponding period of 2022-23, but financial liabilities also rose by a similar extent to 5.8% of GDP from 5.5% of GDP, the report said. Households' annual borrowings had surged to 5.8% of GDP in 2022-23, the second-highest in the post-Independence period.

### 'Many States are coming to court against Union'

Karnataka said its request for financial relief from the Centre to tide over a "grave humanitarian crisis" has hit a wall. The State sought ₹18,171.44 crore under the National Disaster Response Fund six months ago, only to be met with silence. The total estimated loss due to crop damage in the State is ₹35,162.05 crore, the petition said.

The State, represented by advocate D.L. Chidananda, said it was reeling under severe drought. "For the Kharif 2023 season (June-September), a total of 223 out of 236 taluks are declared as drought-affected, with 196 taluks categorised as severely affected and the remaining 27 categorised as moderately affected," it said.

The State said the Centre, under the Manual for Drought Management, was required to take a final decision on NDRF assistance to a State within a month of the receipt of the Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT). However, nothing has happened for the past six months. The court gave the two law officers of the Union government to take instructions and get back after two weeks.

### SC stays trial of T.N. Minister Periyasamy

Mr. Periyasamy was at the time the Minister for Housing in the then DMK government. The Directorate of Vigilance and Anti Corruption (DVAC) had lodged the case against him in February 2012 when DMK lost the elections to AIADMK. The DMK again formed the government in Tamil Nadu in 2021. Mr. Periyasamy became a Minister. Two years later, in March 2023, a Special Court trying corruption cases against lawmakers discharged him in the case for want of proper sanction under Section 197 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

However, a Single Judge Bench of the Madras High Court of Justice N. Anand Venkatesh took *suo motu* cognisance of six cases of corruption. Mr. Periyasamy's case was the first one. The High Court set aside the discharge order of the trial court and put the case back on trial. Mr. Periyasamy has challenged the jurisdiction of the High Court to reopen the case when there was no sanction for prosecution given by the Governor.

### Bunkers take on new roles as guns fall silent

In 2023, at least six ceasefire violations were reported along the Jammu border and a Border Security Force (BSF) personnel was killed as the Pakistan Rangers resorted to "unprovoked" firing at Samba on November 9.

Before India and Pakistan agreed for re-observance of the 2003 ceasefire agreement in February 2021, as many as 72 incidents of ceasefire violations were reported from the Jammu border. In 2020, the number of such violations stood at 450 and in 2022, six such incidents were reported.

In 2017, in the wake of repeated firings and killings of civilians, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) approved ₹415 crore for the construction of over 14,000 bunkers in Kathua, Samba, Jammu, Rajouri and Poonch districts. These included 1,431 community and over 13,000 individual bunkers.

### Congress, NC finalise seats sharing for J&K

"Seat adjustment is one part of the alliance. PDP is part of the INDIA bloc. The overall INDIA alliance is a different issue. J&K being a small area had not much scope for seat adjustment despite our best efforts," Mr. Khurshid said.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Sunday had announced her party's "unconditional support" to the Congress in J&K, and its decision to not field PDP candidates in the Jammu province. However, the PDP will take on the NC's candidates in the Kashmir Valley. Meanwhile, NC president Farooq Abdullah defended the Congress's manifesto.

# Congress moves EC against Modi's manifesto remarks

A delegation of party leaders also raises issues such as the use of Modi cut-outs at government buildings and colleges, use of armed forces in BJP's poll campaigns and seeks appropriate action

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday raised a complaint with the Election Commission of India (EC) against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's comment that the Congress manifesto carried the imprint of the Muslim League, with "every page reeking of breaking India".

In a post on X, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said that the BJP's electoral graph was plummeting and that was why "the Rashtriya Swayansevak Sangh [RSS] is remembering its best friend: the Muslim League".

Accusing the BJP's political and ideological ancestors of supporting the British and Muslim League during the freedom struggle, he went on to say, "Everyone knows how Shyama Prasad Mukherjee formed his governments in Bengal, Sindh and North-West Frontier Province in the 1940s in coalition with the Muslim League?"

Salman Khurshid, Mukul Wasnik and Gurdeep Sappal after the meeting with EC officials at Nirvachan Sadan. PTI

A delegation of senior Congress leaders, including Mukul Wasnik, Salman Khurshid, Pawan Khera and Gurdeep Sappal, raised the issue with EC officials; they also discussed other issues such as the use of pictures and large cut-outs of the Prime Minister in government buildings and colleges. They demanded that these cut-outs be removed for a level playing field in the upcoming election.

In a post on X, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the party had filed two complaints against Mr. Modi.

"We live in hope that the Hon'ble Commission will uphold its Constitutional mandate. For our part, we will continue to pursue all avenues, political and legal, to expose this regime," he said.

Slamming the Congress's manifesto in his rallies, Mr. Modi had said, "Every page reeks of breaking India into pieces. The Congress manifesto reflects the same thinking that was prevalent in the Muslim League during the freedom movement. It completely bears the imprint of the Muslim League and whatever is remaining is completely dominated by the Leftists".

The Congress also filed a complaint with the poll panel against the use of armed forces in poll campaigns by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in violation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) and the EC's notifications. It also raised its earlier complaint made to the EC on April 6 against Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar for allegedly giving false information pertaining to his financial status in his election affidavit, and the issue of public broadcaster Doordarshan airing the film *The Kerala Story* as it "vilifies a religious community and lends credence to the idea of Love Jihad being writ large in the country".

# After PM, Nadda takes up attack on Congress manifesto

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

J.P. Nadda

BJP national president J.P. Nadda on Monday released a statement attacking the Congress over its Lok Sabha manifesto, accusing the Opposition party of "reflecting the ideology of the Muslim League" in the document. The statement comes after Prime Minister Narendra Modi also raised the same point in public rallies over the weekend.

"I saw the Congress manifesto, I was surprised, is it their manifesto or that of the Muslim League? To divide the country and grab power, to what extent Congress can go, this cannot be predicted," Mr. Nadda said.

"It was the Muslim League which had talked about reservation on the basis of religion in 1929, the Congress is repeating the same thing. It is difficult to imagine where Congress will take the country in its greed for power. Today, the way there is talk of giving reservation on the basis of religion and the promise of increasing reservation beyond 50%. Who is to be benefitted, the Congress should make it clear," he added.

He also attacked Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for "absent" Congress flags at the roadshow before he filed his nomination papers for the Wayanad Lok Sabha seat. The Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) is part of the Congress-led United Democratic Front in Kerala. "Rahul Gandhi should answer why Congress flags were absent during the roadshow for filing nomination papers in Wayanad. How far will this appeasement politics go? This attempt to divide the nation and bow to appeasement, the country will not forgive," he said.

# BJP seeks EC action against Akhilesh for remarks on Ansari

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Arun Singh

The BJP on Monday complained to the Election Commission (EC) against Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav over his remarks on the death of mafia-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari.

A delegation comprising BJP general secretary Arun Singh, party's media cell co-convener Sanjay Mayukh and Om Pathak submitted a memorandum.

In its complaint against Mr. Yadav, the BJP gave details of his public statements on Sunday, when he met with family members of the late Ansari in Ghazipur. The BJP said in its complaint that Mr. Yadav, while questioning the circumstances around the former MLA's death, had said the Indian government had been accused of "similar incidents" in the U.S. and Canada, a reference to the killing of terror suspects in those countries and allegations of India's role.

"A grotesquely false statement, without any proof made so casually is rife with international repercussions. Such fulminations, though rooted in their own frustrations of staring into humiliating defeat in the election, have the potential of impacting India's relations with countries that are strategically important to us," said the memorandum.

The party also submitted a complaint against the Rashtriya Swayam Sangh, headed by Congress's Janardan Moon, for "rumour-mongering". It had reportedly uploaded a video on YouTube, which said the RSS (appropriating the name of Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh) was supporting the INDIA bloc in the Lok Sabha election.

# Trinamool leaders detained during protest near EC office

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Police detain Trinamool Congress MP Derek O'Brien outside the Election Commission office in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

The Delhi Police detained leaders of the Trinamool Congress minutes after they sat on a protest outside the Election Commission's (EC) office on Monday.

The leaders had come knocking at the poll panel's door, complaining about the "unholy nexus" between the BJP and the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

Trinamool's Rajya Sabha leader Derek O'Brien, Rajya Sabha MPs Nadimul Haque, Dola Sen, Saket Gokhale, and Sagarika Ghose, former MPs Vivek Gupta, Arpita Ghosh, Santanu Sen, and Abir Ranjan Biswas, and party leader Sudip Raha were detained.

The Trinamool has alleged that the NIA's early-morning searches in Purba Medinipur on the houses of party workers last Saturday were carried out at the behest of local BJP leaders.

The NIA, however, has said its team had gone to arrest the prime suspects in the 2022 blast case.

On Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who addressed an election rally in Jalpaiguri, and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee traded barbs over the issue.

In a memorandum submitted to the EC, the party demanded that the heads of the Central Bureau of Investigation, the Enforcement Directorate, the Income Tax department and the National Investigation Authority be replaced.

"Our key demand is that the Election Commission should provide a level playing field to all parties in this election," Rajya Sabha MP Dola Sen said, addressing the media after the meeting.

In its two-page memorandum, the party alleged that prior to the raid, the NIA SP met local BJP leader Jitendra Tiwari at the former's residence. The agency allegedly issued notices to various Trinamool members and the searches followed after the party members declined to go to the NIA office citing prior political commitments, the Trinamool said.

The searches were conducted around 3.30 a.m. on April 6, the party added.

"The BJP is in complete control of the NIA and has launched an attack on Trinamool functionaries through the NIA. Such events necessitate an immediate intervention of the Election Commission to transfer the newly appointed chief of the NIA and NIA's Mr. Dhan Ram Singh," the memorandum said.

### SC quashes complaint against ex-IAS officer, son

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday either quashed or simply disposed of complaints of money laundering against former IAS officer Anil Tuteja, his son Yash, and others in the alleged ₹2,000-crore liquor scam in Chhattisgarh, saying there were no scheduled offence nor proceeds of crime involved.

A Bench headed by Justice A.S. Oka said the Tutejas had not been even named as accused in the complaint. Since there was none of scheduled offences under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act involved in the case, it would be purposeless for the trial judge to even apply his mind on whether to take cognisance or not.

The court also quashed the complaint against Anwar Dhebar and Arun Pati Tripathi. Noting that Siddharth Singhania and the Tutejas were not even accused in the complaint, the court said "if there are no proceeds of the crime, obviously no offence is made out".

# Election between two ideologies: Rahul

**Mehul Malpani**
BHOPAL

The upcoming Lok Sabha election is between two ideologies of those working for a select few billionaires and the other for the poor, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said on Monday as he kickstarted the party's campaign in Madhya Pradesh's tribal-dominated Mahakoshal region.

"The election is about two ideologies. On one side is [Prime Minister] Narendra Modi *ji* who works for two-three billionaires of India, while on the other side is the Congress party that works for the poor, farmers, Dalits, tribals and backward class people," Mr. Gandhi said at a rally in Seoni district under Mandla constituency.

This was Mr. Gandhi's first visit to the State after the announcement of election schedule. Later, Mr. Gandhi also addressed a rally in Shahdol Lok Sabha segment. Following the rally, the Congress said Mr. Gandhi will stay overnight in Shahdol as his helicopter could not take off due to bad weather.

In his speeches at both places, Mr. Gandhi informed the gatherings about various promises made in the recently-launched manifesto of the Congress, such as filling up the nearly 30 lakh vacancies at various levels in the Union government, providing ₹1 lakh per year to every poor family under Mahalakshmi scheme, abolishing the Agnipath military recruitment scheme, giving one-year apprenticeship to youth,

Rahul Gandhi. ANI

and ensuring legal guarantee to minimum support price (MSP) for farmers.

Targeting the tribal voters of the region, Mr. Gandhi also promised to implement the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution in districts with more than 50% tribal population, if the Congress comes to power at the Centre. The Sixth Schedule provides for the administration of tribal areas in the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

From Mandla, Faggan Singh Kulaste is again in fray on a BJP ticket. He had, however, recently lost the Assembly election from Niwas seat under his Lok Sabha constituency. The Congress has fielded prominent tribal leader Omkar Singh Markam, who had contested from the seat in 2014 but lost to Mr. Kulaste.

The BJP has also repeated MP Himadri Singh from Shahdol while the Congress has fielded Phundelal Singh Marko, MLA from Pushprajgarh (ST) seat in Anuppur district.

Mandla, Shahdol, Sidhi, Chhindwara, Balaghat, and Jabalpur will got to the polls on April 19.

# Modi is intolerant of dissent: Sharad Pawar

**Shoumojit Banerjee**
PUNE

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi blew the poll bugle in Maharashtra with a rally in Vidarbha on Monday, Nationalist Congress Party (SP) chief Sharad Pawar chastised him for being intolerant of dissent, remarking that Mr. Modi had centralised power and sent people to jail for speaking against him.

"When I was the Union Agriculture Minister [for two terms during the UPA regime], I helped Narendra Modi, who was then Gujarat Chief Minister, without any bias. When he visited Baramati, Mr. Modi said he entered politics holding my hand. Yet today, the PM is mounting personal attacks against me," he said.

Mr. Pawar noted that anyone who spoke out against the Prime Minister risked facing some action.

"First, the ex-Jharkhand CM [Hemant Soren] spoke out against the PM, and he was sent to jail. Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal, made a statement against the PM, and he was also sent to jail. This is not democracy but a dictatorship. All power has been centralised in the hands of Modi. We need to liberate power from his grasp," said the NCP (SP) chief and Rajya Sabha MP.

Mr. Pawar wondered why NCP leader and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar would choose to align the BJP.

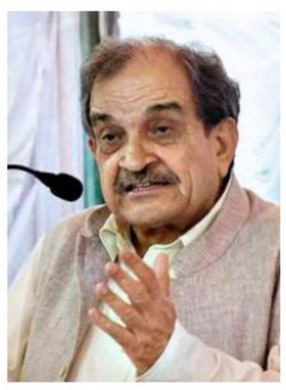
# ELECTIONS 2024

## Former Union Minister, wife quit BJP

Former Union Minister Chaudhary Birender Singh, and his wife Premlata Singh, resigned from the BJP on Monday. They will join the Congress in Delhi on Tuesday.

Mr. Singh told *The Hindu* that he and his wife, a former MLA, would join the Congress. "I had already announced to quit the BJP in case they continued to have an alliance with the Jannayak Janta Party. Though the alliance fell apart two days after my son and Hisar MP Brijendra Singh resigned and joined the Congress, but the decision was already made and could not be reversed," he said.

He said that he had been vocal on the issues such as farmers agitation, wrestlers protest, and the Agniveer Scheme, and those too were the reason behind his decision to quit the BJP.



Chaudhary Birender Singh and wife are set to join the Congress. FILE PHOTO

## BJP misusing EC platform for 'threats': BJD

The BJD on Monday accused the BJP of misusing the Election Commission's platform for issuing threats to serving officials who refuse to toe the party's line.

The BJD filed a petition addressing the EC, drawing its attention to the transfer of six IPS and two IAS officers in the State. On April 2, the EC had directed the Odisha Chief Secretary to shift eight senior officers to non-election duty.

"The new low that they have dropped to in the 2024 elections is that they have started threatening officials like BDOs, tahsildars, and field-level police officials. The BJP is threatening them to either fall in line and support the Odisha BJP in this election or else face transfers and other action," BJD national spokesperson Sasmit Patra said.

> If Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal joins the BJP like (Assam Chief Minister) Himanta Biswa Sarma, he will be released in one day
>
> **ATISHI MARLENA**
> AAP leader

## 'Rahul took PFI support to contest polls'

Union Minister Smriti Irani on Monday alleged that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi took the support of the outlawed Popular Front of India to contest the election from Wayanad. "He should tell the people in Amethi why he is contesting with the help of such groups," she said.

> The way he is saying action will be taken against the leaders is unacceptable. This is Modi ki guarantee, putting the Opposition in jail after June 4
>
> **MAMATA BANERJEE**
> West Bengal Chief Minister

**Hitting out:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves to the crowd during a public meeting in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh on Monday. PTI

## *Opposition is busy holding rallies to save the corrupt: PM*

**Shubhomoy Sikdar**
BASTAR

Taking a dig at the Opposition parties on the issue of corruption, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said that his opponents were now holding rallies to save the corrupt instead of electoral campaigning.

"I am also busy saving my country and my family from loot. And that's why I say remove corruption. What do they say? They say save the corrupt. They are not holding election rallies. They are holding rallies to save the corrupt," Mr. Modi said at a rally in Chhote Amabal, a village on the outskirts of Bastar district of Chhattisgarh.

The Prime Minister was indirectly referring to the March 31 rally of the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) at the Ramila Maidan in Delhi, where its constituents expressed solidarity with Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and former Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren. Both leaders have been arrested in separate cases by the Enforcement Directorate.

### 'Immense public support'

Earlier, Mr. Modi said he had ended the Congress's corruption with public support. "After coming to power in 2014, Modi has cancelled the licence of Congress's looting, and this has only been possible due to the immense support of the public. The Congress is criticising Modi today only because the shop of loot has been closed. However, the Congress does not know that crores of people, including mothers and sisters, have stood as Modi's shield for the protection of the nation," he said.

Underlining that the welfare of the poor was his topmost priority, Mr. Modi listed out several initiatives his government had launched for the people. Among them, he mentioned the Ayushman Bharat Yojana offering free treatment of up to ₹5 lakh, and over 11,000 Jan Aushadhi centres providing medicines at 80% discount, saving ₹30,000 crore for the poor.

## CARTOONSCAPE | SOUMYADIP SINHA

WE HAVE USED ALL GOVERNMENT FUNDS FOR ADVERTISING THE PROMISES, TO IMPLEMENT THE SCHEMES WE NOW HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE NEXT BUDGET...

# Desire for change and popular opponent stumbling blocks for Gadkari in Nagpur

In home city of RSS, the Union Minister is banking on his record of infrastructure development rather than PM's popularity to bag the seat; Congress is hoping that discontent about joblessness and inflation, and consolidation of Dalit, Muslim, OBC votes will help MLA Vikas Thakre wrest power

**GROUND REPORT**

**Abhinay Deshpande**
NAGPUR

In the home city of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the infrastructure projects carried out by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, the BJP's Nagpur candidate, are a bigger talking point in the run up to the Lok Sabha election than the "Modi ki guarantee" slogan.

The city is adorned with giant posters of Prime Minister Narendra Modi – noticeably absent are images of BJP national president J.P. Nadda, Mr. Gadkari, and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis – but the residents note a distinctive approach to campaigning.

While the majority of the BJP's candidates across the country are leveraging Mr. Modi's name and the Centre's welfare initiatives like Ujjwala Yojana, and Awas Yojana, and national security policies to attract votes, Mr. Gadkari has distinguished himself by running a campaign that highlights his own personal achievements, barely leaning on the Prime Minister's popularity.

**Campaign trail:** Union Minister and BJP candidate Nitin Gadkari during the 'Lok Samvad Yatra' in Nagpur on March 31. PTI

"I tried to serve Nagpur honestly while serving as a Minister in Maharashtra and now as a Union Minister for the past 10 years. So, I believe that the people are with me in full force," Mr. Gadkari said, while addressing a public meeting at the Lakdipool and Bangladesh areas of the city.

### Face of development

At Sitabuldi, Purshottam Joshi is busy shopping. He says that Nagpur owes Mr. Gadkari and he should be re-elected for the sake of development. "He constructed flyovers, Metro rail, roads, and whatnot. People are definitely going to vote for him. Yes, even the Congress candidate is strong, but he can't beat Mr. Gadkari's popularity," he said.

In 2014, buoyed by the "Modi Wave" and a desire for change, Nagpur voters shifted their allegiance from the Congress's Vilas Muttemwar after two decades, and elected Mr. Gadkari by a margin of around 2.85 lakh votes. Despite hosting the RSS headquarters, the city had remained a bastion of the Congress since Independence.

The BJP candidates have only been elected thrice – Banwarilal Purohit in 1996 and Mr. Gadkari in 2014 and 2019.

This time around, the Congress has nominated its MLA and former Mayor Vikas Thakre, setting up a potential challenge for the BJP, which intensified its campaign in areas dominated by Dalits and minorities.

Mr. Thakre's popularity and appeal in the Kunbi community, which forms a substantial portion of the electorate, is evident from the rallies being organised in his favour.

Dissatisfaction among the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) over the Maratha reservation issue, and a consolidated move by Dalit organisations and Muslim voters towards the Congress pose further challenges to the BJP.

Parties like the Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi, the Bahujan Samaj Party, and the All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) have decided not to field candidates in this constituency as a "show of support" for the Congress. Leader of the Opposition in Maharashtra Vijay Wadettiwar said this decision will prevent the splitting of votes, a factor that has historically worked against the Congress.

At the popular Dolly Chaiwala roadside stall, which earned recent Internet fame by serving tea to Microsoft founder Bill Gates, there is a lively discussion on the election. Suresh Godboleh expresses the need for a change. "Change is necessary this time. While Mr. Gadkari is commendable, change is crucial for the nation as a whole to prevent the BJP's *tanashahi* (dictatorship)," he says.

His sentiment finds resonance with Paul Swami, who complains about unemployment and the city's reputation as an 'old age home', following the exodus of youngsters to cities like Hyderabad, Mumbai, and Pune in search of jobs, leaving their parents behind.

"In contrast to 2019, Mr. Gadkari won't have it easy. While we support him as an individual, ultimately he represents a party which is only talking about Mandir and other religious activities, neglecting core issues like unemployment, inflation, and job losses," he says.

Despite these challenges, Mr. Gadkari's reputation and a focus on tangible development achievements anchor his campaign efforts. However, lingering issues such as unemployment and trader discontent loom large.

"Clearly, there is no 'Modi Wave' this time and no sentimental issues like Ram Mandir. There's a quiet mobilisation of anti-BJP sentiments on the ground, bolstering the Congress's campaign," says Devendra Gawande, the resident editor of Marathi daily *Loksatta* in Nagpur.

"It's going to be an interesting poll battle in Nagpur after a decade. Both candidates are asking for votes in the name of development," he added.

# Crusaders against two contrasting laws face off in Assam's Dibrugarh

**Rahul Karmakar**
DIBRUGARH

The electoral combat in Dibrugarh, the easternmost of Assam's 14 Lok Sabha constituencies, is between crusaders against contrasting laws involving migrants or refugees from Bangladesh.

BJP heavyweight and Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, 61, has a few things in common with his main rival, the 44-year-old Lurinjyoti Gogoi of the Assam Jatiya Parishad (AJP) in Dibrugarh. They were leaders of the All Assam Students' Union, the launch pad for many an aspiring politician in Assam and they rose to prominence handling the "Bangladeshi" issue, an electoral staple.

Mr. Sonowal fought a legal battle in the Supreme Court to have the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act scrapped in 2005 while Mr. Gogoi floated his party primarily to safeguard the interests of the indigenous people by resisting the Citizenship (Amendment) Act of 2019.

The IM(DT) Act, associated mostly with Bengali Muslims, was said to be loaded in favour of people with doubtful nationality. The CAA, allowing faster citizenship for non-Muslims from India's neighbouring countries, is perceived to pave the way for Hindus from Bangladesh to settle down in Assam.

The framing of the rules for the CAA ahead of the election has now given Mr. Gogoi and the AJP – one of 16 parties in the Congress-led United Opposition Forum, Assam – the ammunition to fire salvos at the BJP.

"However much the BJP defends this unconstitutional Act, the people of Assam know it will spell doom for them. The CAA is a major issue for us, and we are telling them how their *jatiya nayak* [national hero, a sobriquet Mr. Sonowal had earned after his legal victory] has turned into a *jatiya khalnayak* [national villain]," Jagadish Bhuyan, the general secretary of AJP and a former BJP leader, told *The Hindu*.

The AJP has also been highlighting how the BJP has "betrayed" the aspirations of six communities who have been demanding Scheduled Tribe (ST) status for decades.

The Adivasis or tea plantation workers form the largest chunk of voters among these communities followed by the Ahoms, Morans, Mataks, and Chutias.

The Adivasis are largely believed to have gravitated from the Congress towards the BJP over the years. The BJP is banking on them for Mr. Sonowal, who replaced Cabinet colleague and Adivasi leader Rameswar Teli, to register a hat-trick of wins for the party in Dibrugarh.

"The BJP believes in taking all communities together and people know we stand for development. One has to realise the CAA is a Central rule for a humanitarian cause while the IM(DT) was imposed specifically on Assam," Mr. Sonowal said.

The BJP, however, is wary of the damage Manoj Dhanowar, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) candidate can cause. An Adivasi leader and son of former Assam Speaker Rameswar Dhanowar, the AAP candidate has been working primarily among the plantation workers.

The AAP defied the Opposition alliance's understanding to field Mr. Dhanowar. But the contest is expected to be between Mr. Sonowal and Mr. Gogoi, whose critics point out that he could not capitalise on the anti-CAA sentiments to win any of the two Assembly seats he contested in 2021.

**At odds:** Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal campaigns for the Lok Sabha election in Assam's Dibrugarh. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

# 252 candidates in first phase have cases against them: report

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

**On the wealth metric, there are 450 'crorepati' candidates with the maximum (69) from the BJP**

A total of 252 candidates in fray in the first phase of Lok Sabha election on April 19 have criminal cases against them, which included seven with murder and 19 with attempt to murder charges, according to an analysis of the self-sworn affidavits of the contestants by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and the National Election Watch.

The analysis was carried out on 1,618 out of the 1,625 candidates contesting the first phase of Lok Sabha election.

The data show that 161 persons have declared cases of serious crimes registered against themselves, 18 have charges of crimes against women, and 35 have cases related to hate speech. Fifteen out of the 1,618 candidates have declared cases where they have been convicted.

Regarding political parties, all four candidates from the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) have declared criminal cases against themselves. The party with the least number of contestants declaring criminal cases was the BSP, with 11 (13%) out of 86 candidates having criminal cases.

On the wealth metric, there are 450 'crorepati' (whose net worth is greater than ₹1 crore) candidates in the first phase, with the maximum of 69 from the BJP, followed by the Congress at 49, the AIADMK at 35, the DMK at 21, the BSP at 18 and the Trinamool and the RJD at four each.

Contestants of the AIADMK have the highest average assets at ₹35.61 crore followed by the DMK at ₹31.22 crore, the Congress at ₹27.79 crore, and the BJP at ₹22.37 crore.

Congress's Chhindwara candidate Nakul Nath is the richest with ₹716.94 crore assets followed by Erode candidate Ashok Kumar (AIADMK) possessing ₹662.46 crore, and Sivaganga candidate Devanathan Yadav. T (BJP) having ₹304.92 crore in wealth.

## INBRIEF

### SC declines plea by Sanjay Singh against defamation case

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a special leave petition filed by Aam Aadmi Party leader Sanjay Singh challenging a defamation case registered against him for his alleged comments on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's educational qualification. "We are not inclined to entertain this petition," a Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and Sandeep Mehta decided in a short order. Justice Mehta said Mr. Singh, represented by senior advocate Rebecca John and A.M. Singhvi, would have his chance in court during the trial. The Bench, however, acknowledged Mr. Singhvi's request that all questions of law and facts should be kept open to be raised in future proceedings.

### TASL's satellite successfully deployed in space

Tata Advanced Systems Ltd. (TASL) announced the successful deployment in space of its sub-metre resolution optical satellite, TSAT-1A, by SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket. The satellite was placed in space as part of the Bandwagon-1 mission and was launched from Kennedy Space centre, Florida, U.S., on April 7. "This achievement follows the collaboration signed between TASL and Satellogic in November 2023, leveraging Satellogic's expertise to develop and integrate an advanced earth observation satellite in India and TASL's capability to undertake complex system integration," it said in a statement.

## SKM seeks SC-monitored probe into poll bonds

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) has demanded a probe into the "electoral bonds scam" by a special investigation team of retired administrators, monitored by the Supreme Court.

Linking the electoral bonds with debt relief and statutory minimum support price for all crops, the SKM said in a statement here on Monday that decisions of the Centre such as the three farm laws, four labour codes, and privatisation of public undertakings were taken to please the corporate donors.

The SKM appealed to farmers to campaign for a Supreme Court-monitored probe into the "scam" and demanded the prosecution of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Cabinet Members and the BJP leadership. "Though 1,00,474 farmers and 3,12,214 daily wage workers – a total of 4,12,688 persons – committed suicide during 2014-2022, the Modi government did not provide debt relief of a single rupee to farmers and farm worker households despite the promise the BJP made in the 2014 election manifesto," the statement added.

# Right against climate change a fundamental right, says SC

It says rights to life and equality cannot not be fully realised without clean, stable environment; underscores the important role solar power would play in arresting the ills of climate change

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has recognised a much-felt, but less-articulated right against the adverse effects of climate change as a distinct fundamental right in the Constitution.

"It is yet to be articulated that the people have a right against the adverse effects of climate change. This is perhaps because this right and the right to a clean environment are two sides of the same coin. As the havoc caused by climate change increases year-by-year, it becomes necessary to articulate this as a distinct right. It is recognised by Articles 14 (right to equality) and 21 (right to life)," the Supreme Court observed in a judgment released on April 6.

The judgment came in a case connected with the survival of the endangered Great Indian Bustard species.

An order was pronounced in open court on March 21, constituting an expert committee to examine the problem faced by the bird species whose natural habitat and flight routes collide with power transmission lines in Gujarat and Rajasthan.

The court noted that the right to a healthy environment, safe from the ill-effects of climate change, was a fundamental human right.

The case had been posted for further hearing in August. However, the court, unannounced, uploaded a judgment during the weekend. The text of the judgment has several paragraphs on climate change and its adversities.

Linking the right against climate change to Articles 21 and 14, Chief Justice Chandrachud said the rights to life and equality could not be fully realised without a clean, stable environment.

"The right to health (which is a part of the right to life under Article 21) is impacted due to factors such as air pollution, shifts in vector-borne diseases, rising temperatures, droughts, shortages in food supplies due to crop failure, storms, and flooding. The inability of underserved communities to adapt to climate change or cope with its effects violates the right to life as well as the right to equality... If climate change and environmental degradation lead to acute food and water shortages in a particular area, poorer communities will suffer more than richer ones," the judgment said.

The court also highlighted the interconnection between climate change and various human rights, including the right to health, indigenous rights, gender equality, and the right to development.

The judgment noted that the right to a healthy environment, safe from the ill-effects of climate change, was a "fundamental human right".

**India's solar potential**

The court underscored the important role solar power would play in arresting the ills of climate change.

India needed to shift to solar power due to three issues – One, the country is likely to account for 25% of global energy demand growth over the next two decades; Two, rampant air pollution emphasises the need for cleaner energy sources; Three declining groundwater levels and decreasing annual rainfall.

By shifting towards renewable energy sources, India enhances its energy security, reducing reliance on volatile fossil fuel markets and mitigating the risks associated with energy scarcity.

Additionally, the adoption of renewable energy technologies helps in curbing air pollution, thereby improving public health and reducing healthcare costs

## Cannot bar Mahua from defending herself: HC

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday said Trinamool Congress leader Mahua Moitra cannot be barred from defending herself against allegations made by an estranged friend in public domain as long as her statements are not objectively false.

The court made the oral observation while hearing lawyer Jai Anant Dehadrai's plea seeking an interim order to bar the expelled Lok Sabha MP from making "defamatory" statements against him.

Mr. Dehadrai has filed a lawsuit against Ms. Moitra seeking damages of ₹2 crore for making allegedly defamatory statements against him against the backdrop of the cash-for-query row.

The court told Mr. Dehadrai, "If you put the allegations in the public domain, she has every right to defend herself. Except that she cannot make any objectively false statements."

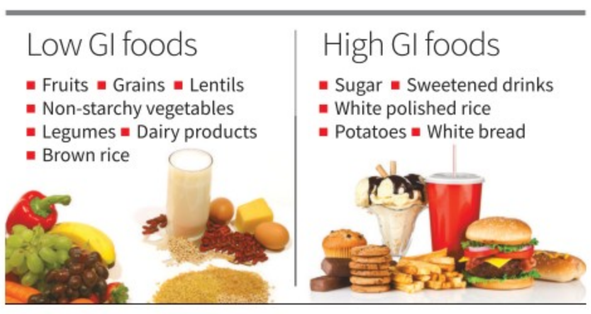
"If both the parties say we don't wish to have this battle in public domain, then it is one thing. (But) If you are going to make a public comment, then she has to have the space to defend herself," it said.

# Strong link between high glycaemic index diet and diabetes, says study

**Ramya Kannan**
CHENNAI

The findings of an international study suggest that consuming low glycaemic index and low glycaemic load diets might prevent the development of type 2 diabetes. They also found a strong association between glycaemic index (GI) and the risk of type 2 diabetes among individuals with a higher Body Mass Index (BMI).

In a paper published in *The Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology* last week, the authors say: "The association between the glycaemic index and the glycaemic load [GL] with type 2 diabetes incidence is controversial." They found that diets with a high GI and a high GL were associated with a higher risk of type 2 diabetes in the study that spanned five continents.




GI ranks carbohydrate-containing foods based on the blood glucose response, post-prandial or after a meal. The higher the blood sugar reading, the higher will be the GI. Meanwhile, GL, is both the quality and quantity of carbohydrates in a specific food and is the product of the GI and the amount of carbohydrates available in a serving.

One of the Indian authors of the paper, V. Mohan, founder, Madras Diabetes Research Foundation, tries to break it down: "It's this question. If you continue to eat certain foods, will you develop diabetes?" Strangely enough, the concept of GI impacting diabetes has been controversial, and there has been little actual evidence applicable to a large population, he says.

"For persons with high BMI and a family history, better and nutritive food choices can put off the onset of diabetes. GL is also very important because the quantity of low nutrition foods you eat also has an impact," he explains. A total of 1,27,594 adults aged 35-70 years without known diabetes from 20 high-income, middle-income, and low-income countries, had enrolled as part of the Prospective Urban and Rural Epidemiology study. Their diet was assessed at baseline using country-specific food frequency questionnaires. The GI and GL were estimated based on the intake of seven categories of carbohydrate-containing foods.

In the follow-up after nearly 12 years, 7,326 (5.7%) cases of type 2 diabetes occurred. A diet with a higher GI was associated with a higher risk of diabetes. Participants in the highest quintile of the GL had a higher risk of incident type 2 diabetes compared with those in the lowest quintile. GI's association with diabetes was stronger among individuals with a higher BMI.

# Cochin Shipyard signs ship repair agreement with the U.S. Navy

**Dinakar Peri**
NEW DELHI

As India and the U.S. look to expand cooperation in ship repair and maintenance to turn India into a regional hub, Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) became the third Indian shipyard to enter into a Master Shipyard Repair Agreement (MRSA) with the U.S., which will enable to repair U.S. Navy ships.

The State-run shipbuilding facility in Kochi is the latest in the line after Larsen & Toubro (L&T) and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd. (MDL)

L&T shipyard in Kattupalli near Chennai was the first Indian shipyard to sign the agreement in July last year. Last month, a U.K. naval ship arrived for the first time at Kattupalli for repairs.

"... The MSRA is a non-financial agreement and is effective from April 5, 2024. This will facilitate repair of US Naval vessels under Military Sealift Command in CSL," the entity said in a disclosure to stock exchanges, adding: "CSL has been qualified for entering into the MSRA after a detailed evaluation process and capability assessment by the US Navy - Military Sealift Command".

CSL became the third shipyard to enter into a pact with the U.S.

Both India and the U.S. are quite keen on expanding cooperation in ship maintenance and repairs as it benefits both countries, giving business and expertise to Indian shipyards while giving alternate options to the U.S. Navy for the smaller repairs of its ships without going faraway increasing their turnaround time and at a lesser cost.

In a joint statement issued after bilateral talks held between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Joe Biden in September last year, both sides recommitted to advancing India's "emergence as a hub for the maintenance and repair" of forward-deployed U.S. Navy assets and other aircraft and vessels.

**U.K. deploying its fleet**

On March 26, the U.K.'s Littoral Response Group (LRG) arrived in Chennai as the first engagement of its deployment to the Indian Pacific region. The U.K. High Commission said the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Argus and RFA Lyme Bay conducted maritime exercises with the Indian Navy as they entered the Arabian Sea and will undergo essential maintenance at L&T shipyard.

"The visit of LRG attests to the U.K.'s capability and commitment to the Indo-Pacific. The sight of Royal Navy ships undergoing essential maintenance at an Indian shipyard is yet another example of the India-UK Logistic Exchange Memorandum of Agreement in practice," said Brigadier Nick Sawyer, Defence Advisor, British High Commission.

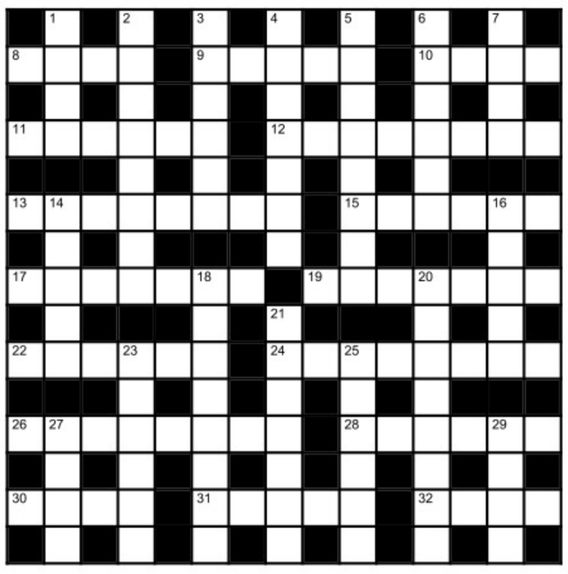
Following the completion of its maintenance in India, the LRG will operate in the Indo-Pacific to conduct training, exercises, and wider engagement with allies and partners, the statement added.

## TH CROSSWORD + 14144

(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



**Across**

**8** Eisenhower follows boy's bicycle (4)
**9** Host runs around university giving direction (5)
**10** Uniform container returned for detachment (4)
**11** A sort of agreement torn by criminal (6)
**12** Be nice at first before lying badly without harmful effect (8)
**13** No virus can travel around second piece of protective gear (3,5)
**15** America follows large Indian state capital (6)
**17** In a ship, a device to snare governors (7)
**19** Earmarks a poster containing a small sketch at first (7)
**22** Roman statesman cooked rice in company (6)
**24** Spirit remover? (8)
**26** Crazy saloon keeper giving away opal to get paraffin (8)
**28** Mince pie with calcium, carbon and vomit inducer no longer recommended (6)
**30** African following Yankee (4)
**31** Engineer consumes bone and sweetener (5)
**32** She would take off and drop (4)

**Down**

**1** Concealed European skin (4)
**2** Not right! Rove around for remnant of earlier meal! (4,4)
**3** Hymns initially sung after lamps are arranged (6)
**4** What you may see before these clues... or after them (7)
**5** Hing-less preparation results in a disease (8)
**6** Judicial persons' rates (6)
**7** Assassinate king? Sick! (4)
**14** Playing harmonium, not horn, shows basic taste (5)
**16** Relative takes girl's rulers (5)
**18** Adages show reasonably basic sense, for starters (8)
**20** Augment Indian position in cricket field (8)
**21** Hereditary unit is containing son's origins (7)
**23** Old American possessing ring with key leads to mass emigration (6)
**25** Spanish exclamations about four Roman fruits (6)
**27** Birds captured by Three Musketeers (4)
**29** Salesman has drinks (4)

## SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

**Solution to previous puzzle**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | R | U | N | O | U | T | O | F | I | D | E | A | S | |
| T | | P | | B | | A | | O | | O | | L | | S |
| E | A | S | E | L | | L | O | O | K | S | M | A | R | T |
| A | | W | | I | | O | | L | | E | | M | | A |
| R | E | I | N | V | E | N | T | S | | S | P | O | O | F |
| A | | N | | I | | | | G | | | | D | | F |
| S | I | G | N | O | R | E | | O | P | P | R | E | S | S |
| T | | | | U | | N | | L | | A | | | | E |
| R | E | P | O | S | E | D | | D | I | L | A | T | E | R |
| I | | A | | | | O | | | | T | | O | | G |
| P | A | R | I | S | | W | A | T | E | R | G | A | T | E |
| O | | S | | E | | M | | O | | I | | S | | A |
| F | E | N | U | G | R | E | E | K | | E | A | T | E | N |
| F | | I | | N | | N | | E | | S | | I | | T |
| | O | P | P | O | R | T | U | N | I | T | I | E | S | |

**Solution to yesterday's Sudoku**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 7 |
| 5 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 9 |
| 1 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 8 |
| 4 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 5 |
| 7 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 4 |
| 8 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 3 |
| 9 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 1 |
| 6 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| 2 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 6 |

## FAITH

### Why Lord chose Dasaratha

Unable to withstand Ravana's atrocities, Devas prayed and surrendered to God seeking relief; at the same time, Dasaratha was conducting Ashwamedha and Putra Khameshti yagam. Lord Narayana assured the devas that He would soon descend upon earth and advised them to wait in Kishkinta until such time, in the guise of monkeys. Narayana then mulled over whose son He should be born as, said Dhamal Perundevi in a discourse. While mortals pray for a good, healthy child, God had to carefully consider which dynasty, which bhoomi and who His parents should be. Witnessing Dasaratha's Putra Khameshti yagam, Narayana's face bloomed like a lotus.

While Dasaratha assumed that he was not blessed with any children due to accumulation of sins, he had, in fact, undertaken so many virtuous deeds that no ordinary child could be equivalent to the sum of his punyam; therefore God decided to be born as Rama to Dasaratha and Kausalya. He chose the sacred land of Ayodhya and the illustrious Ikshvaku clan and Sri Ranganatha of Srirangam as His family deity. Rama was born on sukla paksham, in the Tamil month of Chittirai, under the incomparable Punarvasu, the only star with no marana yogam. Punarvasu means reclaiming lost things (Rama reclaimed both his kingdom and his abducted wife Sita).

## INBRIEF

### Petroleum dealers want ECI to exempt cash movement

Petroleum dealers have appealed to the Election Commission of India (ECI) to permit them to deposit cash at banks generated from daily sales without any hindrance. "Seek permission to exempt us from the squads confiscating our hard earned money which if not deposited [in bank] will result in supplies getting blocked by the oil marketing companies," Consortium of Indian Petroleum Dealers said in a letter to the Chief Election Commissioner on April 8.

### Gland's breast cancer drug copy secures U.S. FDA nod

Generic injectable-focused drugmaker Gland Pharma has secured U.S. Food and Drug Administration (U.S. FDA) approval for Eribulin Mesylate Injection, 0.5 mg/mL single dose vial. The product is being co-developed with Orbicular Pharmaceutical Technologies. Gland expects to unveil it in the near term through its marketing partner. U.S. sales of the product was about $92 million for the 12 months ended February, the firm said, citing IQVIA numbers.

### Panda named XVI Finance Commission Member

The Centre has notified the appointment of economist Manoj Panda as a full-time member of the XVI Finance Commission, tasked with formulating recommendations on the revenue sharing formula between the Centre and States for the five-year period beginning April 2026. The Government had constituted the Commission on December 31, and named former Niti Aayog Vice Chairman and Columbia University Professor Arvind Panagariya as its chairman.

# AI, BIAL sign pact to make Bengaluru an aviation hub

Tata Group's Air India says the partnership will stimulate the MRO ecosystem and generate more than 1,200 highly-skilled jobs; it also adds that the agreement will enhance passenger experience

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Air India and the Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) have entered into an agreement to develop Bengaluru as the aviation hub for south India.

Air India and other Tata Group airlines like AIX and Vistara will collaborate with BIAL to enhance international connectivity, operational efficiency, and passenger experience over the next five years.

This includes strengthening the group's presence at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) through an enhanced network and establishing a dedicated domestic lounge for premium and frequent travellers of Tata Group airlines Air India and Vistara.

**New facility:** Air India also signed an MoU with the Karnataka Government to set up MRO facilities at KIA. REUTERS

As part of this plan, Air India also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Karnataka to establish comprehensive Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facilities at KIA.

Air India said this partnership will stimulate the MRO ecosystem and generate more than 1,200 highly skilled jobs in Karnataka. "Airline-airport synergy is key to elevated customer experience and efficient operations," said Campbell Wilson, CEO, Air India.

### 'Banks must play bigger role in rupee derivatives'

**Press Trust of India**
MUMBAI

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday stressed the need for greater participation of Indian banks in rupee derivatives market, both domestically and offshore.

The governor noted that participation of domestic banks in derivative markets remains limited.

"Domestic banks are dealing with market-makers in global markets rather than with end clients and are yet to emerge as market-makers of note globally," the RBI Governor said while addressing the FIMMDA-PDAI Annual Conference at Barcelona.

Of course, he added banks must do their own due diligence, assess their risk appetite, and move forward carefully.

"Going forward, our focus should be on widening the participation of Indian players in markets for INR derivatives, both domestically and offshore, while being prudent," he said.

Mr. Das noted recent financial market reforms by the RBI are aimed at providing a bedrock for them to meet the growing funding needs in the economy, providing cost-effective hedging options and competing in global markets.

Mr. Das said transparency in pricing remains work in progress. "The retail customer is yet to get a deal at par with large customers. There is a need for effective market-making and finer pricing for small er deals on NDS-OM."

## MARKETS

### MARKET WATCH

| | MONDAY | % CHANGE |
|---|---|---|
| Sensex | 74,743 | 0.67 |
| US Dollar | 83.31 | ----- |
| Gold | 71,700 | 2.58 |
| Brent oil | 89.89 | ----- |

### NIFTY 50

| | PRICE | CHANGE |
|---|---|---|
| Adani Enter | 3224.55 | -0.25 |
| Adani Ports | 1348.65 | -26.90 |
| Apollo Hosp | 6307.75 | -90.00 |
| Asian Paints | 2892.00 | 8.55 |
| Axis Bank | 1076.05 | 16.95 |
| Bajaj Auto | 9030.50 | 21.00 |
| Bajaj Finserv | 1689.15 | 11.20 |
| Bajaj Finance | 7178.55 | 2.90 |
| Bharti Airtel | 1204.70 | 13.70 |
| BPCL | 591.95 | 1.50 |
| Britannia Ind | 4826.80 | 13.75 |
| Cipla | 1462.45 | 13.05 |
| Coal India | 447.40 | 0.45 |
| Divis Lab | 3796.00 | 47.85 |
| Dr Reddys Lab | 6174.55 | -4.75 |
| Eicher Motors | 4205.75 | 174.50 |
| Grasim Ind | 2280.80 | 43.25 |
| HCL Tech | 1540.05 | -5.20 |
| HDFC Bank | 1546.60 | -2.95 |
| HDFC Life | 634.60 | 5.20 |
| Hero MotoCorp | 4595.10 | 70.20 |
| Hindalco | 576.80 | 6.75 |
| Hind Unilever | 2268.95 | 2.00 |
| ICICI Bank | 1087.15 | 3.75 |
| IndusInd Bank | 1568.35 | 15.95 |
| Infosys | 1476.70 | -2.40 |
| ITC | 429.10 | 1.55 |
| JSW Steel | 876.45 | 19.35 |
| Kotak Bank | 1788.40 | 3.25 |
| L&T | 3807.85 | 64.75 |
| LTIMindtree Ltd. | 4897.40 | -30.10 |
| M&M | 2078.10 | 64.80 |
| Maruti Suzuki | 12865.10 | 443.50 |
| NestleIndia | 2498.05 | -39.60 |
| NTPC | 363.50 | 8.95 |
| ONGC | 270.40 | 2.45 |
| PowerGrid Corp | 281.75 | 3.35 |
| Reliance Ind | 2971.95 | 51.75 |
| SBI Life | 1518.80 | 33.50 |
| State Bank | 768.30 | 3.55 |
| Shriram Finance Ltd. | 2569.20 | 50.35 |
| Sun Pharma | 1599.70 | -9.30 |
| TataConsumerProduct | 1137.35 | 21.80 |
| Tata Motors | 1013.20 | 6.10 |
| Tata Steel | 165.20 | 1.85 |
| TCS | 3972.55 | -6.70 |
| Tech Mahindra | 1265.15 | 1.75 |
| Titan | 3748.90 | -5.55 |
| UltraTech Cement | 9863.75 | 40.15 |
| Wipro | 479.90 | -5.15 |

### EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on April 08

| CURRENCY | TT BUY | TT SELL |
|---|---|---|
| US Dollar | 83.12 | 83.44 |
| Euro | 89.98 | 90.33 |
| British Pound | 104.91 | 105.32 |
| Japanese Yen (100) | 54.71 | 54.93 |
| Chinese Yuan | 11.49 | 11.54 |
| Swiss Franc | 91.72 | 92.08 |
| Singapore Dollar | 61.59 | 61.84 |
| Canadian Dollar | 61.13 | 61.37 |
| Malaysian Ringitt | 17.48 | 17.57 |
| Australian Dollar | 54.75 | 54.96 |

Source:Indian Bank

# STB, PhonePe to push UPI in Singapore

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Singapore Tourism Board (STB) and Bengaluru-based fintech firm PhonePe have entered into a two-year strategic partnership to promote the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for Indians travelling in Singapore.

Under this collaboration, Indian travellers can now use the PhonePe app for instant payments with more than 8,000 merchants in Singapore.

The current agreement between the two companies builds upon the existing UPI linkage between India and Singapore, which allows customers to instantly make cross-border transactions between the two countries directly from their existing Indian bank accounts, according to a joint statement issued by the companies.

# 'Tech hiring saw recovery in Jan.-Mar.'

**Mini Tejaswi**
BENGALURU

The first quarter of calendar 2024 saw early signs of recovery in tech hiring and a potential acceleration in industry growth is expected around the middle of the year, reported HR firms. The hiring outlook is positive as IT companies expect to regain their footing amid volatile economic conditions, they said.

Sachin Alug, CEO, NLB Services, a U.S.-based firm that offers recruitment services said, "An upward trend in IT hiring has already been noticed during the first quarter of 2024. We expect the momentum to gain strength by the second half of the year with an increase of about 10% in hiring within the sector."

**Hiring confidence**

Industry observers said the economy is expected to recover, building hiring confidence among IT employers in the current year.

However, Rohit Kishore, Global Delivery and Talent Officer, Randstad Digital said India's tech sector was undergoing a somewhat subdued hiring phase with an anticipated decline of about 15%-20% in H1 2024.

### Tata AMC unveils six new sectoral index funds

**The Hindu Bureau**
MUMBAI

Tata Asset Management Company announced the introduction of six index funds which are designed to provide investors with exposure to key sectors with growth potential.

These include the Tata Nifty 500 Multicap 50:30:20 Infrastructure Index Fund, the Tata Nifty MidSmall Healthcare Index Fund, the Tata Nifty Realty Index Fund, the Tata Nifty Financial Services Index Fund, the Tata Nifty Auto Index Fund and the Tata Nifty 500 Multicap India Manufacturing Index Fund.

# DGTR calls for levy of anti-dumping duty on sodium cyanide

**Bindu Shajan Perappadan**
NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has recommended the imposition of anti-dumping duty on sodium cyanide (NaCN) imported from China, the European Union, Japan and Korea.

The revised definitive anti-dumping duties on the import of sodium cyanide, originating in or exported from these countries, is for a period of five years.

Sodium cyanide is used in the extraction of gold and silver from their respective ores, in electroplating and the heat treatment of metals, and in making insecticides, dyes, pigments, and bulk drugs, etc.

According to information on the DGTR's website, the authority initiated anti-dumping investigation on March 31, 2023 based on an application filed by the Hindustan Chemicals Company and United Phosphorous Limited.

### 'India likely to produce 6.25% less wheat in 2024'

**Reuters**
NEW DELHI

India is expected to produce 105 million metric tons of wheat this year, a flour millers' body said on Monday, 6.25% lower than a government estimate.

India banned exports in 2022 and is relying on bumper harvests to bolster stocks and tame local prices that surged due to dry weather.

"After assessing the crop across the country, we believe that wheat production will be 105 million metric tons this year," said Navneet Chitlangia, senior VP of the Roller Flour Millers Federation of India.

# MVL offers to buy 26% in India Radiators

**The Hindu Bureau**
CHENNAI

City-based Mercantile Ventures Ltd. (MVL) has made a mandatory offer to acquire 26% stake from the public shareholders in India Radiators Ltd.(IRL). As per the revised schedule, the offer will open on April 19 and close on May 3.

MVL plans to acquire up to 2.34 lakh shares at ₹6 each, including ₹1.74 as interest at 10% per annum per share for a period of four years for the delay in making the open offer. A.C. Muthiah-promoted MVL is into leasing immovable properties and manpower supply services, it said in a filing.

On January 5, MVL entered into a share purchase agreement with IRL to acquire 3.46 lakh shares, representing 38.41%, at ₹4.26 per share. This triggered the open offer as the share acquisition was in excess of 25% of share capital along with a change in control. IRL makes auto parts and rents out properties.

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**LOOK OUT NOTICE**
**KULATHUPUZHA PS CRIME. 195/2024, U/SEC.57 KP ACT**

One Bhuvanachandran Kani missing from Aswathy Bhavan, Cherukara, Thinkalkarikkam P.O., Thinkalkarikkam village on 03.03.2024 on the way to Karnataka for rubber tapping work with his distant relative Swapnesh from Kollam Railway station.

**Dist. Police Chief, Kollam Rural - 9497996908**
**Dy.S.P, Punalur - 9497990026**
**Kulathupuzha Police Station - 04752317529**
**Inspector of Police - 9497987041**
**Sub Inspector of Police - 9497980192**
**(145/F2/2024/I&PRD)**

# Hyundai, Kia, Exide sign EV battery pact

**The Hindu Bureau**
CHENNAI

Hyundai Motor Co. and Kia Corporation said they have entered into a pact with Exide Energy Solutions Ltd. for localisation of electric vehicle batteries in India.

The pact enables Hyundai and Kia to equip EVs in India with locally-made lithium-ion phosphate cells, as per a statement

**Exide unit**

Exide Energy Solutions Ltd. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Exide Industries Ltd. It was established in 2022 to foray into the business of manufacturing lithium-ion cells, modules and packs incorporating a portfolio of multiple chemistries and form factors.

This strategic cooperation marks the beginning of Hyundai Motor and Kia's efforts to expand exclusive battery development, production, supply and partnerships in India.

Realising the strategic importance of the market, Hyundai and Kia are taking the lead by introducing EVs to establish themselves as frontrunners in the Indian automotive industry, Hyundai Motor said.

# 'BMW India Jan.-Mar. quarter sales up 51%'

**The Hindu Bureau**
MUMBAI

Vikram Pawah

BMW Group India said it delivered 3,680 units of BMW and Mini cars in the January to March 2024 quarter, up 51% Year on Year (YoY). While the group sold 3,510 units of BMWs, it sold 170 units of Mini during the quarter. The Group also sold 1,810 units of BMW Motorrad motorcycles in the quarter.

"Breaking earlier records, Jan. to March car sales achieved new heights with successful growth of 51%. Our firm leadership in the luxury electric car market remains undisputed thanks to the most diverse range of products," said Vikram Pawah, President, BMW Group India.

During the quarter the group delivered 211 units of electric vehicles, up 26% YoY. These include BMW i7, BMW iX, BMW i4, BMW iX1 and Mini SE. The group is gearing up to introduce BMW i5 soon.

BMW luxury cars reported 152% growth during the quarter. The share of luxury class models contributed 20% to total sales, BMW Group India said.

**All India Institute of Medical Sciences Vijaypur, Jammu 184120**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT) FOR SUPPLY OF MEDICAL GASES SERVICE TO AIIMS, VIJAYPUR JAMMU**

1. Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for Supply of Medical Gases Services to AIIMS, Vijaypur, Jammu has ben published in CPP Portal, GOI on **04th April, 2024.** Vide tender Reference No AIIMS/JMU/NIT/2024/6 and Tender Id No 2024_AIMSJ_751874_1 Bidders/owners interested to provide the services may please download NIT document from CPP Portal, GOI **(https://www.eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app). or website of AIIMS Jammu. (https://www.aiimsjammu.edu.in).**

2. Any Bidder/owner who is unable to download the NIT document may collect the same (Hard copy) from office of the Dy. Director (Admin) located at **GMC Doctor's Guest House, Maheshpura Chowk, Jammu-180001** during working Hours **(9.30 Am to 5.30 PM)**

**Deputy Director (Admin)**
**AIIMS, Vijaypur, Jammu**

DAMASCUS

## Iran Foreign Minister opens new Syria consulate after deadly strike

AFP

Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian inaugurated the country's new consulate in Damascus on Monday, a week after a deadly strike blamed on Israel destroyed the former premises, sending regional tensions skyrocketing. Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad attended the opening of the embassy. AFP

BEIJING

## Russian Foreign Minister arrives in China to strengthen diplomatic ties

AP

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov was in China for an official visit on Monday, his Ministry said, with the two countries looking to strengthen diplomatic ties as Russia's invasion of Ukraine grinds on even after two years. Mr. Lavrov will spend two days in Beijing and meet with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi. AFP

SEOUL

## South Korea says second spy satellite has been placed in orbit

AP

South Korea put its second domestically made spy satellite into orbit on Monday, after it launched from an American space centre on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket. Seoul's military said its "independent intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities have been further strengthened," by the successful launch. AFP

MAPUTO

## Mozambique ferry with people fleeing cholera capsizes, 97 die

AFP

Rescuers searched off the northern coast of Mozambique on Monday after a makeshift ferry boat carrying people fleeing a cholera outbreak capsized, killing at least 97. The converted fishing boat, with about 130 people on board, ran into trouble late on Sunday as it headed for an island off Nampula province. AFP

## Hezbollah leader killed in Lebanon strike: Israel

**Agence France-Presse**
JERUSALEM

The Israeli military said on Monday it killed a Hezbollah commander in an overnight air strike in Lebanon, as cross-border violence flares between Israel and the Iran-backed armed group.

Ali Ahmed Hussein of Hezbollah's elite Radwan Forces was "eliminated" by Israeli jets in the area of Sultaniyeh in southern Lebanon, the military said in a statement, accusing him of attacks against Israeli targets in recent months.

At least two other persons were killed in the strike, according to the Israeli military, Lebanese state media and a security source.

The military said Hussein had "carried out numerous launches toward Israeli territory" from Lebanon since war broke out on October 7 between Israel and Palestinian militant group Hamas, a Hezbollah ally.

# Truce talks to continue in Cairo after IDF withdrawal from southern Gaza

Israeli Defence Minister says Hamas has ceased to exist as a functional terrorist entity in Khan Younis, adds that Israel is at an 'opportune moment' for a hostage deal but this will require 'difficult decisions'; Hamas persists with its main demands

**Stanly Johny**
SDEROT

A day after Israel announced the withdrawal of all combat troops from southern Gaza, Egyptian officials claimed progress in a fresh round of ceasefire talks in Cairo.

Both Hamas and Israel sent delegations to Cairo for talks which were also attended by CIA chief Bill Burns and Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman.

On Monday, Egypt's *al Qahera TV* reported, quoting government sources, that progress has been made in Cairo for hostage release and a ceasefire in Gaza, and parties have agreed to basic points of an agreement.

Hamas and Qatari officials left Cairo after talks. They will return in two days and so will Israeli and American officials.

**Final stages:** The Israeli Defence Forces said all but one battalion would be withdrawn from the strip. AFP

Hamas took 253 people hostage in their October 7 attack which killed at least 1,200 Israelis. Of the hostages, 129 are still in captivity. Some of them are believed to be dead.

At least 33,000 Palestinians have been killed and over 75,000 injured in Gaza in Israel's offensive ever since.

Earlier on Sunday, Israeli Defence Forces announced that they are withdrawing all combat troops from the southern Gaza city of Khan Younus, bringing four months of fighting in and around the city to an end.

Until January, Israel had four-five battalions coming up to some 50,000 soldiers, fighting in Gaza.

On Sunday, the IDF said all but one battalion would be withdrawn from the strip. The remaining battalion would man a security zone Israel has carved across its southern border deep into northern Gaza. This means displaced Palestinians, who have now been cramped into Rafah in the south, cannot move back to the north without Israel's permission.

**'Opportune moment'**

Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said on Monday that the IDF has made key achievements in Khan Younis which allowed Israel to take flexible decisions. Hamas, according to him, ceased to exist as a functional terrorist entity in Khan Younis.

He added that Israel is at an "opportune moment" for a hostage deal but this will require "difficult decisions".

The government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is under intense domestic pressure over the hostage crisis.

On Sunday, at least 50,000 Israelis assembled outside the Knesset, the Israeli parliament, in West Jerusalem, demanding that the government bring the hostages home.

"Regarding the exchange of prisoners, Hamas was and is willing to be more flexible, but there is no flexibility over our ...main demands," a Hamas delegation member who's attending the Cairo talks, told *Reuters*.

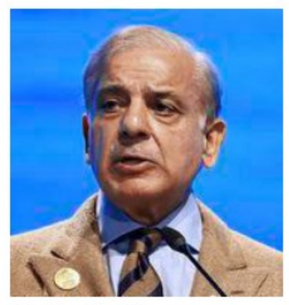
The IDF, meanwhile, said the withdrawal from southern Gaza does not mean that the war was coming to an end.

"The war in Gaza continues, and we are far from stopping," declared Herzi Halevi, the IDF chief of staff, on Sunday.

*(The correspondent is in Israel on an invitation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Israel)*

## Saudi Arabia, Pakistan call for the resolution of Kashmir dispute

**Kallol Bhattacherjee**
NEW DELHI



Shehbaz Sharif

Ahead of the festival of Eid, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia in a joint statement have called for resolving all issues between India and Pakistan including the issue of Kashmir. The statement was issued at the end of the official visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to Saudi Arabia where he met with Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia.

"The two sides stressed the importance of dialogue between Pakistan and India to resolve the outstanding issues between the two countries, especially the Jammu and Kashmir dispute to ensure peace and stability in the region," the joint statement declared. Mr. Sharif, who took charge a month ago, had raised the Kashmir issue while speaking at the National Assembly (NA) of Pakistan.

India-Pakistan relations remain cold and both sides do not have High Commissioners in Islamabad and New Delhi. On the contrary, India's relations with Saudi Arabia have been growing stronger. Saudi Arabia is also host to a large Indian population.

The Pakistan-Saudi Arabia joint statement also called for an end to the crisis in Gaza. "They urged international efforts to halt Israeli military operations in Gaza, and underscored the imperative for the international community to pressure Israel to cease hostilities and facilitate unhindered humanitarian aid access to Gaza."

## Trump says U.S. States should be allowed to decide on abortions

**Associated Press**
NEW YORK

Former U.S. President Donald Trump said he believes abortion limits should be left to the States, in a video released on Monday declining to endorse a national ban after months of mixed messages and speculation.

"Many people have asked me what my position is on abortion and abortion rights," Mr. Trump said. "My view is now that we have abortion where everybody wanted it from a legal standpoint, the States will determine by vote or legislation or perhaps both. And whatever they decide must be the law of the land – in this case, the law of the State."

Mr. Trump did not say when in pregnancy he believes abortion should be banned – declining to endorse a national cut-off that would have been used as a cudgel by Democrats ahead of the election. But Mr. Trump's endorsement of the patchwork approach leaves him open to being attached to the strictest proposed State legislation, which President Joe Biden's campaign has already been working to do.

## Boeing plane in the U.S. runs into trouble again

**Agence France-Presse**
LOS ANGELES

A Southwest Airlines flight returned to Denver after an engine cowling fell off during take-off on Sunday, the Federal Aviation Administration said, the latest in a spate of safety incidents involving Boeing planes.

The FAA said that Southwest Airlines Flight 3695, a Boeing 737-800 passenger jet, landed back at Denver International Airport "after the crew reported the engine cowling fell off during take-off and struck the wing flap." All passengers were safe.

The plane, which took off at 8.15 a.m. on Sunday (1415 GMT) and was bound for Houston, was towed to the gate after landing and the FAA would investigate the incident.

## Vatican slams gender-affirming surgery, surrogacy, gender theory

**Associated Press**
VATICAN CITY

The Vatican on Monday declared gender-affirming surgery and surrogacy as grave violations of human dignity, putting them on par with abortion and euthanasia as practices that reject God's plan for human life.

The Vatican's doctrine office issued "Infinite Dignity," a 20-page declaration that has been in the works for five years.

From a pope who has made outreach to the LGBTQ+ community a hallmark of his papacy, the document was a setback for trans Catholics. But its message was also consistent with the Argentine Jesuit's long-standing belief that while trans people should be welcomed in the church, so-called "gender ideologies" should not.

In its most eagerly anticipated section, the Vatican repeated its rejection of "gender theory," or the idea that one's biological sex can change. It said God created man and woman as biologically different, separate beings, and said people must not tinker with that or try to "make oneself God."

# Sport

## East takes on South for the honours

Deepti. FILE PHOTO

INTER-ZONAL FINAL

**Lavanya L**
PUNE

East Zone, led by Deepti Sharma, and the Minnu Mani-helmed South Zone will fight for long format supremacy in the summit clash of the senior women's inter-zonal multi day Trophy, at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium, here on Tuesday.

South, along with a Harmanpreet Kaur-led North, had made a direct entry to the semifinal stage by virtue of a draw of lots. North suffered a crushing 135-run defeat at the hands of Deepti and Co, while Minnu's side, despite a draw against Smriti Mandhana-led West Zone, booked a spot in the final courtesy a first innings lead.

East comes into the final with more match-time under its belt. Having played a quarterfinal, where it thrashed North East, the side will hope to carry the momentum forward as it goes up against a sprightly South unit.

North's bowlers gave East a harder time in the semifinal clash, bowling the latter out just 132 in the first innings.

However, Mamta Paswan (with a five-for) and Deepti (four) bowled their opponent out for 144. Dhara's half century paved the way for a competitive 282 for nine in the second innings. Shafali Verma's 49 had little help from the rest of her side as Deepti's six-wicket haul helped her side to a big win.

Sajeevan Sajana's 74, aided by Arundhati Reddy's 85, took South to 289 in the first innings its semifinal against West.

Devika Vaidya and Yastika Bhatia gave West's response an early push. Smriti's 30 along with Radha Yadav's unbeaten 39 helped West to 230.

South batted out the final day, with Tamanna Nigam (99) and Miriyala Durga (81) grinding it out.

The first innings lead came in handy for Minnu and Co.

All eyes will be on Deepti in this summit clash. She leads the charts with 17 wickets from two games and will hope to add to that tally against South.

This is also a good chance for players vying for an India cap to show their mettle in the longest format with India showing an interest in more international red ball cricket over the past few years.

## Facile win helps Spurs move into fourth place

EURO LEAGUES

**Reuters**
LONDON

Tottenham Hotspur boosted its Champions League qualifying hopes with a 3-1 home win over relegation-battling Nottingham Forest on Sunday to move into fourth in the Premier League.

Second-half goals from Micky van de Ven and Pedro Porro, after Forest's Chris Wood had cancelled out Murillo's own goal in the opening period, helped Spurs capitalise on rivals Aston Villa and Manchester United dropping points.

Tottenham's victory puts it level with Villa on 60 points but with a game in hand.

Forest remains 17th with 25 points from 32 games, above third-bottom Luton Town on goal difference.

**On target:** Spurs' van de Ven, centre, celebrates his strike with Bentancur and Romero. GETTY IMAGES

**Sheffield holds Chelsea**

In another match, Sheffield United's striker Ollie McBurnie snatched a stoppage-team equaliser to secure a 2-2 draw at home to Chelsea in its battle for survival.

The Blades remain bottom of the table on 16 points and have seven games left to play, while Chelsea is ninth on 44 points after extending the unbeaten run to seven league games.

In Serie A, Juventus returned to winning ways after four league games without a victory thanks to a 1-0 home win over Fiorentina on Sunday to consolidate its hold on third place.

**The results:**

**Premier League:** Sheffield United 2 (Bogle 32, McBurnie 90+3) drew with Chelsea 2 (Silva 11, Madueke 66); Tottenham 3 (Murillo 15-og, van de Ven 52, Porro 58) bt Nottingham Forest 1 (Wood 27).

**Serie A:** Cagliari 2 (Augello 42, Viola 88) bt Atalanta 1 (Scamacca 13); Juventus 1 (Gatti 21) bt Fiorentina 0; Monza 2 (Djuric 9, Colpani 62) lost to Napoli 4 (Osimhen 55, Politano 57, Zielinski 61, Raspadori 69); Verona 1 (Bonazzoli 8) lost to Genoa 2 (Ekuban 45, Gudmundsson 58).

**Bundesliga:** Hoffenheim 3 (Weghorst 17, Kramaric 20, Bebou 90) bt Augsburg 1 (Demirovic 61); Wolfsburg 1 (Baku 7) lost to Borussia Moenchengladbach 3 (Itakura 52, Ngoumou 58, Reitz 88).

UNIQUE FEAT

## Jadeja the first to complete a grand treble in IPL history

R. RAGU

Ravindra Jadeja, who joined the list of players with 100 catches in the IPL when he pouched Shreyas off Mustafizur in the CSK-KKR game on Monday, became the first in the history of the League to achieve the distinction of 1000 runs, 100 wickets and 100 catches. He now has 2776 runs and 156 wickets, besides the 100 catches.

NO CHANGE

## My batting approach remains the same, says CSK skipper Ruturaj

R. RAGU

Ruturaj Gaikwad, who scored his first half-century as CSK skipper, said captaincy has not changed his approach to batting. "It was a similar kind of situation when I scored my first fifty for CSK. We were chasing around 140, and I wanted to stay till the end. Nothing changes even though I am the captain now," he said.

HOPPING ON

## SA pacer Williams joins Capitals as replacement for Brook

GETTY IMAGES

South African fast bowler Lizaad Williams was on Monday roped in by Delhi Capitals as a replacement for batter Harry Brook in the ongoing Indian Premier League after the Englishman withdrew from the tournament to grieve his grandmother's death. The 30-year-old Williams has joined Capitals at his base price of ₹50 lakh.

FORCED BREAK

## Mayank down with a niggle, set to miss Capitals game

K. MURALI KUMAR

Pace sensation Mayank Yadav is likely to miss Lucknow Super Giants' next match against Delhi Capitals at home on April 12 because of an abdominal niggle which will require monitoring over the week, the franchise's CEO stated on Monday. Mayank suffered the niggle during LSG's 33-run win over Gujarat Titans on Sunday.

# Jadeja, Deshpande and Ruturaj hold sway as CSK subdues KKR

The left-arm spinner's three quick strikes peg Knight Riders back after a positive start; Deshpande, Mustafizur among the wickets too; Ruturaj's unbeaten half-century gives Chennai a third win while the Kolkata side suffers its first defeat

IPL-17

**S. Dipak Ragav**
CHENNAI

Ravindra Jadeja set it up with a miserly spell of 4-0-18-3 before skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad shepherded the chase with an unbeaten 67 (58b, 9x4) to help Chennai Super Kings beat Kolkata Knight Riders by seven wickets at the MAC Stadium here on Monday.

After electing to field, the CSK spin attack came to the fore on a typically slow Chepauk pitch where the ball gripped off the surface to restrict Knight Riders to 137 for nine.

In reply, Ruturaj showed his class, playing some delectable shots through the off-side as he got his first half-century of the season. Rachin Ravindra gave the initial momentum, smashing Mitchell Starc for three boundaries in the third over.

The CSK skipper joined the party when he hit left-arm spinner Anukul Roy for three boundaries, a delicate cut behind point sandwiched between two superb inside-out cover drives.

Daryl Mitchell took down Sunil Narine for six down the ground, followed by a reverse sweep to the off-side fence, and his 70-run stand with Ruturaj for the second wicket ensured the hosts were on track to win easily. But with the heavy dew playing a part, the Knight Riders spinners weren't able to break through.

**Two to tango:** Jadeja and Deshpande, who dented the KKR innings with three wickets each, celebrate one of the former's strikes. R. RAGU

Earlier, the hosts started on the right note when Tushar Deshpande (three for 33) removed Phil Salt off the first ball of the innings, caught at backward point.

However, Narine (27) continued to bat uninhibited as he and Angkrish Raghuvanshi (24) went after the Super Kings quicks in the PowerPlay, and the side raced to 50 in five overs.

But Jadeja pulled things back in the seventh over with a twin strike. The all-rounder had Raghuvanshi trapped leg-before while attempting a reverse sweep and then removed Narine, caught at long-off.

When Jadeja had Venkatesh Iyer misiming a slog to midwicket in his next over, the Kolkata side slumped from 56 for one to 64 for four. Later, the pacers, led by Mustafizur Rahman (two for 22), backed up the spinners by effectively using cutters in the death overs, keeping the power-packed Knight Riders batting line-up quiet.

Once Deshpande got Rinku Singh and Andre Russell through change of pace, the visitors had to settle for a below-par total.

### Next assignment

**KKR:** April 14 vs **LSG**
*Kolkata, 3.30 p.m.*

**CSK:** April 14 vs **MI**
*Mumbai, 7.30 p.m.*

SCOREBOARD

**KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS**
Phil Salt c Jadeja b Deshpande 0 *(1b)*, Sunil Narine c Theekshana b Jadeja 27 *(20b, 3x4, 2x6)*, Angkrish Raghuvanshi lbw b Jadeja 24 *(18b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Shreyas Iyer c Jadeja b Mustafizur 34 *(32b, 3x4)*, Venkatesh Iyer c Mitchell b Jadeja 3 *(8b)*, Ramandeep Singh b Theekshana 13 *(12b, 1x6)*, Rinku Singh b Deshpande 9 *(14b)*, Andre Russell c Mitchell b Deshpande 10 *(10b, 2x4)*, Anukul Roy (**Impact Player in place of Rinku**) (not out) 3 *(3b)*, Mitchell Starc c Ravindra b Mustafizur 0 *(3b)*, Vaibhav Arora (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (b-1, lb-4, nb-2, w-6): 13; Total (for nine wkts. in 20 overs): 137.

**FALL OF WICKETS**
1-0 (Salt, 0.1 overs), 2-56 (Raghuvanshi, 6.1), 3-60 (Narine, 6.5), 4-64 (Venkatesh, 8.2), 5-85 (Ramandeep, 11.5), 6-112 (Rinku, 16.4), 7-127 (Russell, 18.2), 8-135 (Shreyas, 19.1), 9-135 (Starc, 19.4).

**SUPER KINGS BOWLING**
Deshpande 4-0-33-3, Mustafizur 4-0-22-2, Shardul 3-0-27-0, Theekshana 4-0-28-1, Jadeja 4-0-18-3, Ravindra 1-0-4-0.

**CHENNAI SUPER KINGS**
Rachin Ravindra c Varun b Vaibhav 15 *(8b, 3x4)*, Ruturaj Gaikwad (not out) 67 *(58b, 9x4)*, Daryl Mitchell b Narine 25 *(19b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Shivam Dube (**Impact Player in place of Mustafizur**) b Vaibhav 28 (18b, 1x4, 3x6), M.S. Dhoni (not out) 1 *(3b)*; Extras (lb-2, w-3): 5; Total (for three wkts. in 17.4 overs): 141.

**FALL OF WICKETS**
1-27 (Ravindra, 3.2), 2-97 (Mitchell, 12.3), 3-135 (Dube, 16.5).

**KNIGHT RIDERS BOWLING**
Starc 3-0-29-0, Vaibhav 4-0-28-2, Anukul 1.4-0-18-0, Narine 4-0-30-1, Varun 4-0-26-0, Russell 1-0-8-0.

**Toss:** CSK; **PoM:** Jadeja.
*CSK won by seven wickets with 14 balls to spare.*

# Sunrisers' batting might will be in focus against Kings

**S. Prasanna Venkatesan**
MULLANPUR

**Key players:** Head and Curran will be eager to make an impact for their respective teams. R.V. MOORTHY

The usually bowling-centric Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) has let its batting make an emphatic statement so far in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) season. This facet will once again be the focal point as Pat Cummins' men take on Punjab Kings (PBKS) at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium here on Tuesday.

The season's only match (vs. Delhi Capitals) on Kings' new home ground here was played on a black-soil strip that typically doesn't offer great bounce. The ball held up a lot. It'll be interesting to watch Sunrisers' batting approach here.

Pace variation might work at this ground and Sunrisers' seamers best executed it in its last match to greatly restrict Chennai Super Kings (CSK).

Kings' assistant coach Brad Haddin said that Livingstone, who missed the last match due to a niggle, trained through a session on Sunday.

He added that the medical team will be asked to reassess him and then a decision will be taken on the match-day.

Sunrisers' Mayank Agarwal, who missed the last match as he was unwell, was seen practising on Monday.

In the previous match that was played here (3.30 p.m. start), Kings' captain Shikhar Dhawan said that he chose to bowl to better gauge the pitch condition and added that it would get better for batting under the lights.

Hopefully, Kings have had a hang of the ground conditions since they will be playing their next three matches, post the Tuesday match, as well here.

### Points table

| | M | W | L | PTS | NRR |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rajasthan Royals | 4 | 4 | 0 | 8 | 1.120 |
| Kolkata Knight Riders | 4 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 1.528 |
| Lucknow Super Giants | 4 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 0.775 |
| Chennai Super Kings | 5 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 0.666 |
| Sunrisers Hyderabad | 4 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 0.409 |
| Punjab Kings | 4 | 2 | 2 | 4 | -0.220 |
| Gujarat Titans | 5 | 2 | 3 | 4 | -0.797 |
| Mumbai Indians | 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 | -0.704 |
| Royal Challengers | 5 | 1 | 4 | 2 | -0.843 |
| Delhi Capitals | 5 | 1 | 4 | 2 | -1.370 |

*After the CSK-KKR match on April 8*

### Today's match

PBKS vs SRH
Mullanpur, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
PLAYED: 21
PBKS 7 | SRH 14

PREVIOUS MEETING
SRH won by eight wickets, 2023

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIO CINEMA

# The golf connection that swings it Klaasen's way in six-hitting

**S. Prasanna Venkatesan**
MULLANPUR

Everyone's been marvelling at Heinrich Klaasen's ability to hit sixes, especially against spin, in the ongoing IPL.

Former England batter Kevin Pietersen on commentary referred to Klaasen's full swing of the bat – begins with a high backlift and ends over his shoulder – and wondered if he plays golf.

Sunrisers Hyderabad bowling coach James Franklin on Monday confirmed that Klaasen does play golf.

"Yes, he does play golf. But he hasn't been playing a lot lately. He's got his family here. So, in his spare time, he's spending time with his family, which is great to see," he said on the eve of his team's match against Punjab Kings here on Monday.

> He's got an unbelievable ability to pick the length very early, particularly balls that are back of a length
>
> **FRANKLIN**
> SRH bowling coach on Klaasen

He picked Klaasen's swing play, particularly against spin, as the striking attribute. "He's got an unbelievable ability to pick the length very early, particularly balls that are back of a length. At times, with Klaasen, you get a little bit caught up with what he does against spin.

"I think we've also seen in this IPL how good he is against pace. So, he is, if not the best, probably one of the best in the middle-order in world cricket in T20s."

**Teeing off:** Klaasen has the remarkable ability to clear the ropes with ease. AFP

# Red or white, Boom Boom Bumrah is terrifying, mean and hungry

**Amol Karhadkar**
MUMBAI

A whopping 439 runs were scored in 40 overs at the Wankhede Stadium on Sunday during Mumbai Indians' maiden win in Indian Premier League 2024, against Delhi Capitals. None of the 12 bowlers – except one – conceded less than eight runs an over. Add to the fact that the exception to the batting carnage finished with figures of 4-0-22-2 and it underlines how exceptional Jasprit Bumrah was on the day.

For the pace sensation, however, it was just another day out on the park. When Bumrah – with his uncanny action, ability to generate pace and bounce, accurate seam position and control in bowling toe-crushers at will – is in full flow, the best of the batters struggle to see him off, let alone go after him.

**Razor sharp:** Bumrah's ability to deliver toe-crushers at will make him a batter's nightmare. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Ask Prithvi Shaw, the Delhi Capitals opener who was batting in the 60s, who had to up the ante if his team was to have a remote chance of getting close to the Mumbai Indians' gargantuan 234. Bumrah is reintroduced into the attack, for his second over, in the 12th over. He stifles Shaw and his set partner Abishek Porel, conceding just two singles in his first four balls.

Then comes the terrifying toe-crusher. Shaw manages to save his toe, but not his wicket.

So much has been said and written about Bumrah over the last decade but he still manages to leave everyone in awe with his mastery over the ball, irrespective of its colour. No wonder then that Player-of-the-match Romario Shepherd referred Bumrah's act as "Bumrah doing Bumrah things and get us over the line".

After being sidelined for a major part of 2023, including the entire IPL, Bumrah appears to be keen to make amends. That he has conceded just 98 runs in 16 overs, picking up five wickets, will sound like music to the ears of the Mumbai Indians fans.

All of them will be hoping for him to keep going in the same vein in the coming ahead, as MI is scheduled to face Royal Challengers Bangalore (Thursday) and Chennai Super Kings (Sunday) at home.

## INBRIEF

### Bhatia clinches Texas Open and ticket to Augusta Masters

Akshay Bhatia defeated Denny McCarthy in a sudden-death playoff at the end of a dramatic final round of the PGA Tour's Texas Open golf in San Antonio on Sunday. Bhatia, who became the last qualifier to the Masters, went into the final round with a four-shot lead but a remarkable back nine from McCarthy forced a playoff. McCarthy made eight birdies after the turn, finishing with seven in a row as he carded a nine-under 63. His 12-foot birdie putt on the 18th left Bhatia needing to sink his own 11-footer to avoid defeat and head to a playoff and the 22-year-old Californian did not flinch.

### PCI signs three-year-deal with Shrachi Group

The Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) has signed a three-year deal with Kolkata-based Shrachi Group. "This partnership will go a long way to helping us do our best in Paris. I am confident the Paris Paralympics will be a watershed in the history of Indian sport," said PCI president Devendra Jhajharia.

### Danielle Collins powers to her second straight WTA title

Danielle Collins powered to her second straight WTA title, following her Miami Open victory, with the Charleston Open championship on Sunday. Collins defeated 2017 champion Daria Kasatkina 6-2, 6-1 for her 13th straight match-victory. She became the first player since Serena Williams in 2013 to win Miami and Charleston in consecutive weeks. "Thank you for allowing me to live out my dream," Collins said at the trophy ceremony.

### Shelton outlasts Tiafoe to win U.S. men's Clay Court

Ben Shelton captured his second career ATP Tour title, outlasting defending champion Frances Tiafoe 7-5, 4-6, 6-3 on Sunday to win the U.S. Men's Clay Court Championship. Shelton became the youngest player to win this event since Andy Roddick did it at 19 years old in 2002.

### Everton docked two more points for breach of PL's PSR

Everton have been given an additional two-point deduction for a breach of the Premier League's profitability and sustainability rules (PSR) for the period ending season 2022/23. This followed a previous six-point PSR penalty imposed on Everton and left it just two points above the relegation zone with seven games left to play.

### Nelly Korda gets the better of Leona Maguire for the title

Nelly Korda won four of the first seven holes, largely making the rest of the final of the T-Mobile Match Play on Sunday a formality in beating Leona Maguire 4 and 3 at Shadow Creek, North Las Vegas. "This golf course is so tough that pars are going to go a long way," Nelly said during the awards ceremony. Lorena Ochoa was the last player to win four consecutive starts in 2008.

**LIVE TELECAST**

**ISL**: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 5 & 7.30 p.m.
**IPL**: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.
**Champions League:** Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3 (SD & HD) & LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

# Nepomniachtchi takes sole lead after taming Gujrathi

Caruana-Gukesh game ends in a draw; Nakamura and Praggnanandhaa split the point; Vaishali is held while Humpy goes down to Salimova even as Zhongyi stays ahead in women's event

**CANDIDATES CHESS**

**Sports Bureau**

Ian Nepomniachtchi moved into the sole lead of the FIDE Candidates chess tournament in Toronto on Sunday. The Russian, who won the last two editions of the event, defeated Vidit Gujrathi in the fourth round.

Nepomnichtchi has three points. Top seed Fabiano Caruana and D. Gukesh are in second with 2.5 points apiece after their game ended in a draw. All the others are on 1.5 points.

In the women's tournament, China's Tan Zhongyi maintained her sole lead with three points after drawing with Russia's Kateryna Lagno.

Another Russian, Aleksandra Goryachkina, who drew with R. Vaishali, is in the second spot with 2.5 points. Vaishali and Koneru Humpy, who was stunned by Bulgaria's Nurgyul Salimova, are languishing in the bottom half with 1.5 points each.

Salimova, who is rated more than 100 points below Humpy, won in 62 moves. The Indian, who played black, was two pawns down in a rook-and-minor-piece ending.

"I was out of my preparation very early on and Humpy surprised me in the opening with her fifth move," Salimova said.

"But the position later turned into something that I have checked. So, it was not like I was completely unfamiliar. When she started pushing the pawns, it looked scary, but it felt like I was always in control."

All the other three games in the women's section were drawn.

In the Open event too, there was only one decisive result – Nepomniachtchi's 44-move win over Gujrathi, who slumped to his second straight defeat, after scoring a stunning victory against second seed Hikaru Nakamura.

The tournament will resume on Tuesday after a day's rest.

**Lording over:** Nepomniachtchi's 44-move win over Gujrathi put him on top, while Nakamura and Praggnanandhaa, background, played out a draw. FIDE

**The results, fourth round:**

**Open:** Hikaru Nakamura (USA) 1.5 drew with R. Praggnanandhaa 2; Ian Nepomniachtchi (FIDE) 3 bt Vidit Gujrathi 1.5; Fabiano Caruana (USA) 2.5 drew with D. Gukesh 2.5; Nijat Abasov (Aze) 1.5 drew with Alireza Firouzja (Fra) 1.5.

**Women:** Aleksandra Goryachkina (FIDE) 2.5 drew with R. Vaishali 2; Nurgyul Salimova (Bul) 2 bt Koneru Humpy 1.5.

Kateryna Lagno (FIDE) 2 drew with Tan Zhongyi (Chn) 3; Anna Muzychuk (Ukr) 1.5 drew with Lei Tingjie (Chn) 1.5.

**New boundaries:** Nagal is the first Indian to win a main draw match in Monte Carlo. GETTY IMAGES

## Nagal rallies to stun World No. 38 Arnaldi

**MONTE CARLO MASTERS**

**Sports Bureau**

Sumit Nagal created history, becoming the first Indian to record a main-draw win at Monte Carlo Masters, beating Italy's Matteo Arnaldi in the first round on Monday. The unseeded 93rd-ranked Nagal, who is only the third Indian to feature in the main draw in Monte Carlo after Vijay Amritraj (1977) and Ramesh Krishnan (1982), came from a set down to beat World No. 38 Arnaldi 5-7, 6-2, 6-4.

Nagal is also the first Indian to win an ATP Masters 1000 match on clay since the series began in 1990. The Indian will next face seventh-seeded Dane and last year's runner-up Holger Rune.

Arnaldi broke Nagal to go 4-2 up in the opening set but the Indian broke back immediately. However, serving to stay in the set at 5-6, Nagal went down 15-40. He saved one break point the 23-year-old Italian converted the second one with a crosscourt winner to bag the first set.

In the second essay, Nagal dominated Arnaldi and broke him twice to race to a 4-1 lead. While the Italian got one break of serve back, the Indian restored the advantage immediately before serving out the set.

In the decider, Nagal broke Arnaldi in the third game but the Italian restored parity at 3-3. Nagal broke him again in the seventh game and this time, managed to keep his lead intact to close the set.

Nagal defeated Italy's Flavio Cobolli (No. 63) 6-2, 6-3 and Argentina's Facundo Diaz Acosta (World No. 55) 7-5, 2-6, 6-2 to qualify for the main draw.

This is Nagal's second appearance in an ATP Masters 1000 main draw this season.

# Chief Minister Siddaramaiah requests KSCA to name stands after 1974 Ranji stalwarts

**Due recognition:** There have been growing requests to name the stands after Ranji stalwarts.
FILE PHOTO: K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

**Ashwin Achal**
BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah called on the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) to name stands in the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium after players who featured in Karnataka's first Ranji Trophy title win in 1974.

In a letter addressed to former India cricketer and KSCA Hon. President Raghuram Bhat, Siddaramaiah found merit in honouring three stalwarts from that side – G.R. Viswanath, E.A.S. Prasanna and B.S. Chandrasekhar.

Siddaramaiah wrote the letter in response to a request from historian and writer Ramachandra Guha. In the letter, Guha asked the Chief Minister to urge KSCA to take action on this matter.

"He (Guha) has stated that there are repeated requests from fans to honour the three great stars of the 1974 victory: the batsman G.R.Viswanath and spin twins E.A.S. Prasanna and B.S. Chandrasekhar.

He has further stated that in Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata and other places, the main cricket stadiums have stands named after the great players from that city or State, and yet there are no stands in Bengaluru named after G.R. Viswanath, E.A.S Prasanna and B.S. Chandrasekhar.

I think the request of Sri Ramachandra Guha has a lot of merit in it. I request you to consider naming the stands after Sri G.R. Viswanath, Sri E.A.S. Prasanna and B.S. Chandrasekhar, which will inspire and encourage the upcoming cricketers of the State," Siddaramaiah said.

In an event hosted by ACT Fibernet at KSLTA here last month, former India and Mumbai captain Sunil Gavaskar had also called on the KSCA to name stands in the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in honour of the players.

## BENGALURU ROUND-UP

**Hat-trick by Deekshith**
Deekshith scored a hat-trick to help RWFSA beat Falcon FC 4-2 in a KSHA Super Division hockey match on Monday.
**The results:** DPS HC 5 (Hashim 12, 22, Manikram 30, Shahanul Shafas 46, Rahul Balan 48) bt Karnataka Forest Sports Board Society 2 (D.S. Darshan 10, 39); RWFSA 4 (Deekshith 4, 9, 41, K.R. Umesh 30) bt Falcon HC 2 (Sundhar Raj 13, 17).

**Arathi slots in five**
M. Arathi scored five goals as Technico Junior blanked Hawks United Sports Academy 6-0 in the KSFA Women's B-division league championship here on Monday.
**The results: B-div:** Technico Junior 6 (M. Arathi 9, 21, 23, 38, 50, Mridula Shree 12) bt Hawks United Sports Academy 0.
**C-div:** Freelancers FC 1 (M. Murthy 31) drew with White Field FC 1 (Thonglen Haokip 28); North East Youth FC 1 (Huidrom Chingkhei Singh 12) bt Rare Dare FC 0; La Esparanza 1 (Stephen John 13) bt BSS FC 0; Kodagu Colts FC 4 (RaviKumar 10, 27, 39, 58 bt Bangalore Champs Academy 0.

**Senior-ranking badminton tournament**
Karnataka Badminton Association will conduct a senior-ranking tournament here from April 7 to 13 and a junior-ranking event from April 16 to 22.
More than 1500 athletes are expected to participate.

# Madrid will be out for revenge against City; Arsenal meets Bayern

**CHAMPIONS LEAGUE**

**Associated Press**
MADRID

Real Madrid vs. Manchester City. The all-time kings of Europe take on the current holders in the standout tie of the Champions League quarterfinals on Tuesday.

For the third year running Madrid and City meet in a match-up in which the winner has gone on to lift the trophy in the past two seasons.

And it would be difficult to look beyond either team going on to continue that streak this time around.

City is still in contention for back-to-back trebles after winning the Premier League title, Champions League and FA Cup last year. Madrid, reinvigorated by the signing of Jude Bellingham, is aiming for a record-extending 15th European Cup title.

It also has a point to prove after being routed 4-0 by City in the second leg of last year's semifinals.

Then it was City who had a score to settle, having suffered a late collapse at the Bernabeu to crash out in the semifinals in 2022.

Pep Guardiola will likely know how motivated Madrid will be to exact revenge – just as his players were last year – and that adds a subplot to a tie that is heavy on intrigue.

Elsewhere on Tuesday, Premier League title-chasing Arsenal takes on a Bayern Munich team that is limping towards the end of a miserable campaign in the German league.

Bayern Coach Thomas Tuchel wants to end a "frustrating" season, and his tenure, on a high with a trip to Wembley for the Champions League final. But its preparation for Arsenal could hardly have been worse after its latest defeat, this time to Heidenheim on Saturday after leading 2-0.

The mood at Arsenal is very different with Mikel Arteta's team looking better equipped to last the course in the race for the title this year after a late collapse last season.

The Champions League run feels like an unexpected bonus, but victory against Bayern will strengthen belief that a trophy double could be on.

**All ears:** Kanishk, Prateek, Ranvir, Thirumurugan, Samarth and Kshitij, listen to captain Lodi and Davis Cup captain Zeeshan, during the Junior Davis Cup selection camp. KAMESH SRINIVASAN

# Junior Davis Cup team selection process begins in right earnest

**Kamesh Srinivasan**
NEW DELHI

The selection trials started for the Junior Davis Cup team at the DLTA Complex on Monday.

All six boys – Aradhya Kshitij, Samarth Sahita, V. Thirumurugan, Ranvir Singh, Kanishk Kathuria and Prateek Sheoran – played matches as part of the selection process.

"We will have two sets of matches tomorrow. And then, one match each over the next two days," explained coach Sajid Lodi, who will be taking the chosen team for the Asia-Oceania under-16 boys' event scheduled to be staged in Shymkent, Kazakhstan, from May 20 to 25.

The Indian Davis Cup captain cum coach for the last tie against Pakistan, Zeeshan Ali, was also on hand to give a pep talk to the players, encouraging them to capitalise on the chance to represent the country.

The non-selection of the national under-16 champion Arnav Paparkar who has been competing in the ITF under-18 and men's events, continued to be a point of debate.

The secretary of the Maharashtra State Lawn Tennis Association (MSLTA), Sunder Iyer, said that he was taking up the matter with the AITA, as the idea was to help the country field the best team, despite constraints of the selection procedure.